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Eco-Tec: 'Recovering the Future'

Forlorn corn: Is an oversupply
of ethanol fuel a real concern?

Enerplus Resources: a 'melting
pot' of N.A. oil and gas firms.

United Coal Co. anticipates a
healthy future for high-quality
metallurgical coal.



Eco-Tec Inc., based in Pickering, Ontario, specializes in the recovery, purification and recycling of water and chemicals, with a focus on what is best for its customers.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

ECO-TEC IS EXPANDING ITS CONSERVATION AND RECYCLING AS INDUSTRIES AND CUSTOMERS BECOME MORE AWARE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

COMPANY PROFILE

Eco-Tec Inc.

www.eco-tec.com

HQ: Pickering, Ontario

Employees: 85 to 100

Products: Water and chemical recovery and recycling equipment

P.J. Simmons, CEO: "The populace understands that we have to be more conservation-oriented."

Eco-Tec Inc. serves its customers from the research stage through its design, manufacturing and service, and always with a commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship, says CEO P.J. Simmons. "We have a very strong bias toward providing the best value to our customer," he states. "We are always trying to do what's best for the customer. We're not just an equipment supplier that supplies equipment and walks away. Innovation is one of [our] major keys. We are geared toward environmental conservation; with a name like Eco-Tec, you have to be."

The company engineers, designs, manufactures, distributes and services a variety of equipment used for the recovery, purification and recycling of industrial water and chemicals.

Simmons says the company's commitment to innovation is evident in the hydrometallurgical area. "We have supplied a number of systems that recover and recycle acids used in copper electrorefining," he explains. "Instead of acids and copper going through waste treatment, this system uses water for regeneration, separating and recovering the acid and copper values. It's very economical with very quick payback. Up until we developed our system, this technology was not really practiced."

Eco-Tec is working on projects for this particular application, including one

‘[ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IS] IMPORTANT TO SOCIETY, AND FOR AN INDUSTRIAL COMPANY, IT’S A VERY BIG ISSUE.’

in South Africa that involves the removal of arsenic from an electrorefining operation. “We work on very unusual things,” Simmons says. “We have a project in which we are an integral part of the new technology for the production of ethanol from cellulose fibers.

“Ethanol is normally made from corn in the U.S., and it’s becoming a major alternative for gas. The problem with corn is that it takes vast amounts of corn, and we can’t produce enough. The U.S. would be one big corn field.”

Cellulose is a naturally occurring complex in plants and is usually wasted, he says. Eco-Tec has developed a technology that is an integral part of the production of ethanol from the cellulose complex, and is more greenhouse friendly than the corn ethanol process, he notes.

“It’s carbon neutral,” Simmons says. “This is going to be a very big area in the near future.”

The company has also launched a new water treatment purification system for coal bed methane-produced water. And, in April, the company added a new product line that uses biogas processing technology to purify methane from landfills for use as fuel. “Instead of letting it go into the atmosphere, we are using it to create heat and energy,” he says.

The company is now making its first major sales of this technology. Simmons describes Eco-Tec’s culture as unique with a commitment to [give the] best value to the customer.

He says the company promotes ethical, moral and environmentally friendly operations. “Even our walls are green,” he notes. “Our company culture is one of pride in being innovative. We have a very strong community presence.

“The company is made up of an elite group of very dedicated people,” he continues. “We are an extremely technical company dominated by technical people.”

Eco Trends

Simmons says the market is embracing environmentally friendly technologies in many new areas. “There is a huge movement toward saving the environment,” he says, “and industries are becoming more aware that we have to do something. We saw this need in the ’70s and ’80s, but people are starting to take action now. The populace understands that we have to be more conservation-oriented.

“This is what our business is all about – sustainable development,” he adds. “It’s important to society, and for an industrial company, it’s a very big issue. It’s a

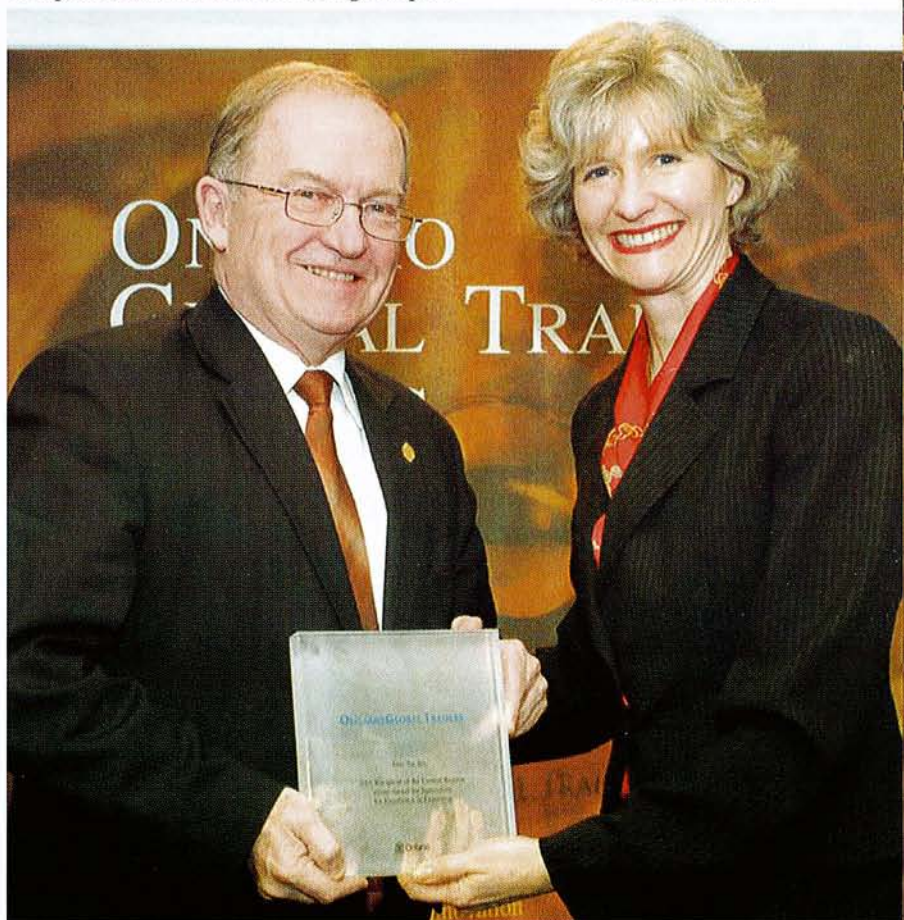
trend that we are seeing, and we’re leaders in that trend. It makes us feel good that, for over 35 years, we were right.”

As markets in China and India continue to grow rapidly, North American businesses are faced with the challenge to “get their acts in gear and do things properly” to stay competitive, and to be a part of these emerging markets. “We don’t have to give up and run scared,” he says. “There is tremendous capacity for innovation and engineering that can help us move into those markets.”

Eco-Tec operates in 52 countries throughout North America, South America, Europe and Asia, and it is now moving into Africa. It has two office locations – its headquarters near Toronto and another in the U.K. near Birmingham, along with local representation in every major world market.

“This is an excellent time,” Simmons says. “We’ll have a tremendous run over the next 25 years, because there is an opportunity for our company, and companies like us, to make a huge impact.”

 P.J. Simmons (left) receives the Ontario Global Traders Award for Innovation for Excellence in Exporting from a representative of Export Development Canada.





RecoPur

Eco-Tec plans to feature its RecoPur coal bed methane (CBDM) water treatment system at the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Fair in Gillette, Wyo., on May, 31 and June 1. The system includes a turnkey operations and maintenance service provided by

+ Eco-Tec supplied a number of systems that recover and recycle acids used in copper electrorefining. This system uses water for regeneration, separating and recovering the acid and copper values.

PureTech. "Coal bed methane is one of the latest industries that will provide a vast resource for natural gas," Eco-Tec states. "One issue surrounding CBM is the environmental impact of the water produced through CBM well processes. The produced water currently contains high levels of sodium that can be potentially dangerous to the well's surrounding environment."

To economically address this issue, Eco-Tec says, the RecoPur system recovers the sodium-filled water and purifies it to "extremely acceptable levels with the capability to convert the waste into marketable byproducts. "PureTech provides the expertise in the CBM industry and the local, hands-on engineering and aquatic biology experience required by CBM producers," it says. "Together, Eco-Tec and PureTech form

a team that will ensure that the CBM industry can economically and efficiently move forward with production while preserving the environment."

Industry Recognition

Simmons has received a number of industry awards in recent years. In 2007, he was awarded the Ernest A. LeSueur Memorial award by the Canadian Section of the Society of Chemical Industry "for developing technical excellence with a benefit to Canada in a chemical-based industry," the company states. Simmons also received the Special Citation Award for Outstanding Achievements from the City of Pickering in 2007.

He was awarded the Ontario Professional Engineers Award for Entrepreneurship from the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers and Professional Engineers Ontario "for demonstrating his determination and leadership in building an internationally successful, technology-based business centered in Ontario" in 2006, the company notes. In 2005, he received the Ontario Global Traders Award for Market Expansion from Export Development Canada, as well as the Ontario Global Traders Award for Innovation for Excellence in Exporting. ■



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