

Association News

The Southern Gas Association (SGA) now has a larger membership. The Association consolidated the membership of the Southeastern Gas Association (SEGA) into SGA on Jan. 1. The consolidation gives the SGA more than 150 distribution, transmission and gas supply marketing members and over 330 associate members. Tom Mulkey, president and CEO of SGA, said, "We are excited to have their members become part of SGA."

The Kissimmee Utility Authority (KUA) was recently recognized for its effort to restore electric service to customers when hurricanes devastated Florida in August and September last year. KUA was the recipient of the Florida Municipal Electric Association's Community Restoration Award for its efforts to restore electric service in the wake of the destruction. KUA was the hardest hit electric utility in central Florida, having lost electric service to 100% of its customers in Hurricane Charley, 36% in Frances and 59% in Jeanne. Over 100 municipal utilities throughout the U.S. came to Florida's aid following the 2004 hurricanes.

Company News, Mergers & Acquisitions

Several false rumors are prevalent in the industry regarding the ownership of Tulsa, OK-based **Darby Equipment**, a long-time provider of products and services to pipeline contractors. The shareholders wish to assure the industry that 100% of Darby Equipment's outstanding shares of stock are owned by Ed, Bob, and Bobby Darby.

Darby Enterprises which is managed by Darby Equipment, is owned 100% by Lucile Darby.

Norcross, GA-based **Equipment Controls Company** has opened offices in Mexico City to service the Latin American oil and gas industry. Based in the Santa Fe Business District, the 40-year-old manufacturing and distribution company, which specializes in measurement and regulation instrumentation and systems, recently initiated operations from its new office location at Paseo de los Tamarindos No. 400, Piso 5, Torre "A", Mexico City. Ph: 52.55.5261.4333; Fx: 52.55.5261.4310.



Xavier Gonzalez



Lamar Jones

Xavier Gonzalez has joined the company to manage its sales and service development for the Latin American region.

In other news, Lamar Jones joined the company's Equipment Controls Sales & Service Team. Based in Acworth, GA, a suburb of Atlanta, Jones will cover the Tennessee and Georgia market areas.

Yankee Gas Services Company, part of the Northeast Utilities System, recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for the largest construction project in company history, a 1.2-Bcf LNG storage facility in Waterbury, CT. Chicago Bridge & Iron, The Woodlands, TX, was awarded a con-

tract to build the facility which is planned to be in service for the 2007-08 heating season.

Denver, CO-based **Golder Associates Inc.** has acquired PIC Technologies, Inc., a Colorado- and Wyoming-based firm specializing in environmental permitting for natural gas pipelines and oil and gas developments. PIC's expertise will expand Golder's capabilities in the interstate pipeline permitting market.

Black & Veatch of Overland Park, KS, has acquired Hauppauge, NY-based R.J. Rudden Associates Inc. and the Lukens Energy Group of Houston. These acquisitions are expected to enable Black & Veatch to broaden its capabilities, particularly in the energy markets.

AMEC plc has acquired Houston-based oil and gas engineering services company Paragon Engineering Services Inc. for \$38 million in cash. Paragon will be merged with AMEC's existing Houston operations and the new company, AMEC Paragon Inc., will operate as part of AMEC's global oil and gas business. This acquisition furthers AMEC's strategy of expanding its oil and gas business and establishes the company as a Tier One contractor in Houston.

Landr -Ruhaak bv is the new Waukesha Engine distributor For Poland. In addition to Poland, LR's distribution responsibility includes The Netherlands, Spain and Portugal. Working from their base location in Vianen, The Netherlands, LR will handle Waukesha Engine sales, service and parts for all applications. A local office is also being established in Poland.

Crosstex Energy, L.P. has agreed to acquire 100% of the assets of Graco Operations, one of its key competitors in the treating business, for \$9.25 million. In a separate transaction, it has also entered into an agreement to acquire 100% of the partnership interests that it does not own in a gathering system in Harrison County, TX for approximately \$5 million. "These acquisitions are a continuation of Crosstex's growth strategy," said Barry E. Davis, President and CEO.

International Paint LLC, a division of Akzo Nobel, a leading provider of high-performance coatings, has opened a Gulf Coast distribution center. The new facility at 1150 Hall St., Deer Park, TX will serve customers throughout the Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Kansas regions. To learn more, visit www.international-pc.com/pc/.

Actuant Corporation, the parent company of Enerpac, has purchased the shares of Hedley Purvis Holdings Ltd. Headquartered in the UK, Hedley Purvis designs and manufactures products for the bolting market, including torque wrenches, multipliers, tensioners, and pumps. In addition, it provides rental, manpower, and other services to bolting end users including BP, Mobil, Texaco, Marathon, and BJ Services. For further information on Actuant, Enerpac and Hedley Purvis, visit www.actuant.com, www.enerpac.com and www.hedley-purvis.com.

A recent transaction by **K-L Energy Partners** resulted in a strategic co-investment with Hicks, Muse, Tate and Furst Inc. in its recent acquisition of Regency Gas Systems, LLC, a natural gas gathering, processing and transmission company based in Dallas. In con-

junction with the co-investment, K-L Managing Directors Robert D. Kincaid and Gary Luce have now joined the

Regency board of directors. Regency owns and operates five gas gathering systems, one major transmission system and five cryogenic gas liquids processing plants. The company's pipeline systems are anchored by contractual relationships with more than 500 major gas producers, and connect approximately 2,800 wells to nearly 3,000 miles of pipeline with current throughput of approximately 450 MMcf/d. Its processing plants have aggregate capacity of 330 MMcf/d

EPIC ENGlobal, LLC is a new company formed by ENGlobal Systems, Inc. and EPIC Technical Services, Inc. to provide turnkey integrated engineering, automation and construction services in both domestic and international markets. Proposed services include preliminary and detailed engineering, process control, power systems, instrumentation, system integration, control panel and component fabrication, and construction and maintenance.

Personnel Changes

INTEC Engineering, Houston, has named **Lanny Waguespack** vice president of LNG Engineering Services, responsible for expanding the company's offshore LNG activities in North America. Waguespack's scope of experience includes operations, engineering and transaction management as well as business development for oil and gas gathering, processing, treating, transportation and marketing.

Virginia Burnell has been appointed president of Invensys Process Systems' North America operations. Burnell holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Kent State University. She lives in Houston.

Following an executive management change, **R. Clay Etheridge** was named the new president of Willbros International Inc. Etheridge has worked for over 25 years in the energy sector with senior executive experience in both marine and onshore pipeline and facilities projects worldwide. Since joining Willbros in September 2004, he has had primary responsibility for the company's operations in Nigeria and played a leading role in the contract negotiations for three recently announced projects.



CECO Pipeline Services Company, Inc., Houston, recently launched its Industrial Coatings Division for corrosion prevention. Richard "Taco" Benavides has been assigned to the leadership team of the division. Benavides is NACE certified

with over 15 years of professional coating experience that includes onshore and offshore projects.

CECO Pipeline Services Company, Inc. is a wholly owned corporation of Compressor Engineering Corporation (CECO) headquartered in Houston. CECO Pipeline Services provides a variety of maintenance services to pipeline operators, including pipeline integrity work, pipe fabrication, coating applications, corrosion services, erosion control, grounds

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maintenance, compliance work and mechanical services. For more information, visit www.cecopsc.com.



Rob Schriek has been appointed Manager — Offshore at CRC-Evans Automatic Welding. He reports to Bernhard Russeim and offices in Hoevelaken, The Netherlands. CRC-Evans Automatic Welding designs and builds automatic welding systems for land or offshore pipeline construction. The company is a subsidiary of CRC-Evans Pipeline International, a provider of specialized equipment and services for the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of pipelines.

Frank J. Bruno was recently name director, People Department, at Henkels & McCoy, Inc. Bruno has an extensive background in human resources with 30 years experience.

John A. Weinzierl has been promoted from principal to managing director at Natural Gas Partners, a private equity firm in the energy industry based in Irving, TX. **Colin F. Raymond** also joined the firm as a principal. He will concentrate on NGP's transaction analysis and execution as well as monitoring of active portfolio companies.

S. Barry Jackson has been named as the next

chairman of the TransCanada board. Jackson will succeed Dick Haskayne who will retire as chairman on April 28, having reached the mandatory retirement age for directors.

Roger A. Brown has been named to McDermott International Inc.'s board of directors. He will be a member of the compensation committee and the governance committee. Brown currently serves as president of Smith Technologies, a business unit of Smith International Inc.

Aztec Oil & Gas, Inc. recently named finance veteran **Dr. Kenneth E. Lehrer** to the newly created position of vice president, CFO.

Energy Solutions International, a Houston-based global supplier of oil and gas pipeline management software, has named **John Sherman** Chief Technology Officer. Sherman will be responsible for defining and overseeing the company's product line architectural roadmap, optimizing the software development lifecycle, and managing Energy Solutions' team of 30 software engineers, architects, development managers, quality assurance testers, analysts and product managers in both Houston and the UK.

Occidental Petroleum Corporation's oil and gas operations have been divided into two core regions — Western Hemisphere and Eastern Hemisphere. **John W. Morgan** has been appointed to the position of president, Oxy Oil and Gas — Western Hemisphere and **R. Casey Olson** has been appointed president, Oxy Oil

and Gas — Eastern Hemisphere. Both executives will report to Oxy Chairman and CEO Dr. Ray R. Irani.

Teresa Valdes has been promoted to territory manager at Enviroline Group. She will be responsible for all sales, technical service and distribution of the company's products in South Florida, Latin American and the Caribbean. Based in Pompano Beach, FL, Enviroline Group is the manufacturer of Enviroline® series products.

S.A. (Al) Sehsuvaroglu, P.E., has been named president of Big Sky Energy Corporation, Calgary, Alberta. He replaces Daming Yang, who will remain a director of the company. Sehsuvaroglu is a professional engineer with over 27 years of oil and gas experience and is the newly elected vice chairman of the Kazakh Petroleum Society.

Mark Papworth has joined John Wood Group PLC as COO for the Eastern Hemisphere for the Group's Gas Turbine Services division.

Stephen C. Taylor has joined Natural Gas Services Group, Inc., of Midland, TX, an equipment and services provider to the oil and natural gas industry, as president and CEO. **Wallace Sparkman**, interim president and CEO for the past nine months, was elected chairman of the board and will focus his day-to-day activities on new business. **PE&GJ**