

UniTRACK

NUCLEAR SERVICES NEWS

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Setting a New Standard for Safety Inspections



Since 9/11, nuclear power plants have been on guard against terror attacks. As security requirements and enforcement have become more rigorous, our customers have increasingly called on security officers to physically inspect trucks and cargo entering their properties.

As critical as these inspections are, manual hand searches and visual examinations are tedious, time consuming, can jam operations, and even miss dangerous contraband. But UniTech and its customers have developed a new process to conduct these safety inspections before shipments leave UniTech laundry facilities – significantly improving the quality of inspections while saving time and eliminating guard checks at the entrance of customer facilities.

UniTech ships laundered nuclear protective garments to customers in containers that would

ordinarily be hand examined by the customers' security force. Now, for some customers, UniTech is providing x-ray and explosives sniffer technology to quickly and efficiently screen packages of clean laundry.

Highly trained, independently certified licensee security officers operate the machines in a secure area at UniTech. The inspectors certify the containers and close the packages using individually numbered, tamper-evident seals. Each truck is sealed and certified before leaving UniTech.

Managers at nuclear facilities can now be certain that UniTech trucks have been properly and thoroughly screened using advanced imaging technology and equipment.

For more information about how these improved security inspections can benefit your organization, please contact your account representative or Gregg Johnstone at gjohnstone@UniTechUS.com. ■■

Can't Recycle/Release Unwanted Scaffolding Pipes?

UniTech Gets Inside the Problem

When surplus scaffolding pipes are pulled from nuclear facilities, the metal inside the hollow pipe may or may not be contaminated – it's difficult to tell unless you split the pipe open. That's exactly what UniTech is doing with a solution designed in cooperation with Bartlett Nuclear, Inc.

UniTech has designed and manufactured a pipe splitter that cuts through metal as thick as three inches in diameter and pipes as long as eight feet. The process exposes internal surfaces so they can be surveyed for free release; the process of splitting and monitoring also reveals whether internal surfaces need to be decontaminated.

Once a pipe is certified for free release, the metal can be recycled, rather than disposed of as low level waste – and it doesn't have to be stored in a secure facility that ties up resources and increases waste costs.

Historically, free-release certification has been a cumbersome, time consuming and expensive process because inspectors, using hand probes and smears, the inside of a pipe could not be surveyed. And if the part of the item couldn't be surveyed, it could not be free-released.

Check out the demonstration video at www.UniTechUS.com and talk to your UniTech account representative to learn more. ■■



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PPE Best Practices to Reduce Radwaste



The 6th International ENS Workshop in Papenburg, Germany this fall attracted nuclear facility managers and industry experts from around the world. The conference has more than doubled over the years, now attracting participants from major nuclear facilities in Germany, the UK, Sweden, France, Romania, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, and the U.S.

The conference focused on radwaste reduction and PPE advancements along with best practices, innovations to limit the industry's environmental impact, and ways to streamline operations and save money.

Decommissioning and recycling

Conferees learned how Magnox South successfully decommissioned, reused and recycled key components of five nuclear sites owned by Energy Solutions. Decommissioning goals included eliminating accidents and incidents, minimizing waste and the use of natural resources, and making sure waste was managed safely, with proper care for the environment.

Recycling and reusing equipment within the nuclear or related industries was critical. During the shut-down of one facility, the

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New Products - We Have You Covered

Whether you're protecting employees or encasing equipment, UniTech has you covered with custom-made Sealand covers, FME bags, lead blanket covers, and other solutions – and we're poised to act quickly. When a customer inadvertently contaminated a crane, UniTech solved the problem, delivering a tailored decontamination solution that saved the customer untold dollars in demurrage, purchasing and radwaste costs.

Other innovations:

- **DryGuard Plus** – comfortable, durable, disposable wet application coverall.
- **Launderable Knuckle Bags** – reinforced to avoid tearing; handle design eliminates rip away.
- **Launderable Valve Lockouts** – made from 200 denier nylon with Hypalon strap; 6 grommet holes/6 lock applications.
- **Cotton Glove Liners** – elastic cuff design prevents liner roll-up.
- **Bouffant-style Launderable Hardhat Covers** – lightweight nylon, convenient use.

For a complete list of product details and benefits, please contact your account representative or Gregg Johnstone at gjohnstone@UnitechUS.com. ■■



Corporate Giving, from the "Sole" - and the Links

Across the organization, UniTech and our employees support charitable giving and this fall Cheryl Mack, our Accounts Receivable Manager, literally walked the talk. Mack helped organize a team of 13 people who joined hundreds of others during the American Cancer Society's Making



UniTech Accounts Receivable Manager Cheryl Mack (far right) and her team would never turn their backs on a good cause. Mack and her friends are shown here at the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk this summer wearing their breast cancer logo sweatshirts made by UniFirst Owensboro, KY.

Strides Against Breast Cancer five-mile walk in South Yarmouth, MA. The team raised nearly \$13,000, which included a large donation from UniTech. Mack and her team have raised some \$26,000 during breast cancer walks over the last three years.

"I have a friend who is a survivor and we decided to support her. We're hoping this helps lead to a cure. I'm happy we're doing something to help," said Mack.

In a thank you letter to UniTech, a representative of the American Cancer Society said "Your dollars are helping bring us one step closer to a world with less breast cancer and more birthdays."

UniTech also helped the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) tee off against cancer and Alzheimer's disease. The company was a sponsor of INPO's second annual charity golf tournament to support the Atlanta 2-Day Walk for Breast Cancer and the Atlanta Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk. Sponsorship dollars benefited INPO's team of walkers participating in the walks. The charity events have raised millions of dollars over the years. ■■

Serving Ringhals

UniTech was awarded a new full-service contract with Ringhals, Sweden's largest nuclear power site, to provide laundry services, leasing services for protective clothing, and health physics supply items. Ringhals places an emphasis on making sure the items it requires are available on time. UniTech has demonstrated its ability to provide Ringhals with superior, on-time service in the past and promises the same level of timeliness and responsiveness going forward. The new contract begins in January. ■■



Ask the Nuclear Protective Clothing Expert Do Launderable Garments Have Advantages Over Single-Use Garments?

Because this question is central to the ongoing discussion about protecting employees, UniTech has gathered information from in-depth physical testing and empirical data from the nuclear industry and drafted a comparative analysis of launderable versus single-use garments; the white paper, test results and industry reports are all available upon request.

The issues are many, our reporting is broken down into separate categories to be published in this and upcoming editions of UniTRACK. The issue to be examined currently is worker comfort.

ASTM tests performed on launderable and single-use garments conclude that reusable material such as ProTech offer workers enhanced levels of comfort; the scientific studies arriving at this conclusion focused on rigidity coefficients, insulative resistance and vapor transport resistance per ISO 11092 standards.

Among the critical points – ProTech coveralls and hoods offer:

- A passive venting system to provide natural cooling along with a secure protective barrier;
- A lower coefficient of friction combined with the coverall design allowing for quicker donning and doffing;
- An absorbent micro fiber band sewn into the brow of the hood to reduce facial contamination from perspiration;
- Flat top designed hood allowing workers to turn their heads without impeding vision, thus minimizing contamination from hands touching the face.

Launderable garments offer a myriad of benefits including superior protective properties, cost savings and a positive environmental impact; these issues will be discussed and supported with research and examples in future editions of UniTRACK. ■■



QA Brief: Safe on Site, Safe on the Road

UniTech is in the business of safety – at your facilities, our sites, and on the road. And with that in mind, we’ve launched a new training program to enhance the performance of our already safety-conscious fleet of drivers and plant managers.



UniTech’s increasingly robust policies and programs are fully in line with the U. S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) effort to roll out its Comprehensive Safety Analysis 2010 (CASA 2010). The analysis allows the FMCSA to more effectively identify motor carriers with safety and compliance problems.

Road safety is an ongoing priority at UniTech and the company has a proven record of providing safe and timely deliveries to customers. The company supports this new Safety Measurement System (SMS) to ensure drivers are continually practicing safety on the road, are alert, fit, and drug and alcohol free. The effort also ensures the safety and fitness of heavy-duty motor vehicles.

If you have any questions about our efforts to improve transportation safety, contact the UniTech/ENS Corporate Quality Manager Jon C. Couillard at 413-543-6911. ■■

Words of Wisdom

“ Great ideas need landing gear as well as wings. ”

– C. D. Jackson
U.S. Office of Strategic Services (WWII)
1902-1964

Upcoming Conferences

- Dec. 2: NECHPS Vendor Meeting/Waltham, MA Area
- Dec. 6-9: Perma Fix/Nashville, TN
- Dec. 14-16: Nuclear Power International/Orlando, FL
- Jan. 10-13: Containment/Drywell Workshop/Wilmington, NC
- Jan. 10-12: EPRI ALARA/Weston, FL
- Jan. 13-14: NRC Region 3 RPM Meeting/TBD, FL
- Jan. 24-26: PWR ALARA/Marco Island, FL
- Jan. 26-28: Region 1 & 2 RPM Meeting/Marco Island, FL
- Jan. 31-Feb 2: USA Winter Meeting/San Diego, CA
- Feb. 6-9: Health Physics Midyear Meeting/Charleston, SC
- Feb. 9-11: NISHA Winter Conference/Comanche Peak (Glen Rose, TX)

- Feb. 27 – Mar 3: Waste Management/Phoenix, AZ

- June 26-30: HPS Meeting/Palm Beach, FL
- July: NEI/HP Meeting/Clearwater, FL
- Dec. 7-8: Nuclear Energy Asia/Hong Kong

Recent Contract Highlights

- Los Alamos: Respirators and ProTech Garments
- Atomic Energy of Canada: Microfiber Swab Head Covers, Microfiber Towels
- Entergy, Indian Point II: F/R Coveralls, Hoods and Shoes
- NB Power Nuclear: Welding Hoods, Lens for Special Hoods
- Energy Northwest: Safety Glasses, Gloves, Towlettes, Flashlights
- Fiber Tower: RF Coveralls, Gloves, Hoods and Socks

- Nuclear Fuel Service: Rubber Shoe Covers, Disposable Shoe Covers
- TVA: ProTech Coveralls, Rubber Gloves and Shoes
- B&W, Y-12: MSA Ultra Twin Respirators
- Zion Solutions: New Multi Year Contract for Protective Clothing
- Dominion, North Anna: MaxAir Comfort Strips and Hoods
- BWXT-Oak Ridge: New Multi Year Contract for Cleaning of Protective Clothing/Respirators
- Electric Boat: Respirator Parts
- Washington Savannah River: Vests, CoolTech, Rubber Shoe Covers
- Rochester Gas: GripTech Gloves
- Exelon, Peach Bottom: F/R Hard Hat Covers

New Staff at UniTech

Darren D'Souza joined UniTech as the company's Onsite Coordinator at a nuclear facility in Ontario. His exceptional organizational, communication and interpersonal skills will ensure UniTech achieves the highest levels of customer service. With more than 20 years of industry experience, Darren has held managerial positions with UniFirst Canada, Universal Dust Control in Toronto and G&K Services Corporation of Canada. Darren has augmented his professional skill set by successfully completing numerous service and management training programs.



Paul Chesters joined UniTech as Technical Account Manager in Oakdale, United Kingdom, UniTech's newest nuclear licensed decontamination facility. His professional career spans nearly 30 years beginning in the British armed forces where he was stationed in Namibia, Lebanon, Iraq, and Cyprus and held several key positions including Troop Commander. Paul was also a Senior Lecturer at The Knowledge Centre in Farnham, Surrey, England; Director of Sales and Training for Sian Consulting in Heathrow; Technical Sales Director for Celtic Communications Haslemere in Surrey, England; and Head of Sales and Marketing for NLT Training Services in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, Northern England. Paul has distinguished himself in both private industry and the armed services, having been awarded the MBE in the 1993 New Years Honours List for actions above and beyond the call of duty during the Gulf and Iraq conflicts.



PPE Best Practices to Reduce Radwaste

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main CO² tanks became redundant; a project team considered options for disposal but settled on reuse instead of cutting and scrapping the tanks which are now on board a ship providing service to the oil exploration industry.

The presentation also featured examples of reuse and recycling of fuel casks and heat exchangers that were safely removed, transported, stored, and decontaminated. In the end, project managers achieved their goals – significantly reducing waste, and creating a blueprint for others to follow.

Reducing radwaste

Citing a study involving several nuclear facilities in Canada, Kent Anderson, Director of UniTech's Canadian Operations illustrated how companies are reducing radwaste, saving money and improving operations by using launderable bags. Anderson partnered with management from health physics, civil maintenance, operations, environment, safety, and other divisions of several nuclear facilities to develop a compelling case study.

His data shows that launderable bags, which are stronger than plastic, eliminate the need to double wrap materials, and can be used to secure materials in the vault. Anderson said the bags reduce radioactive waste generation, reduce decontamination on materials, improve function, and save money. Results indicate the bags are easier to handle than plastic and help improve the professional appearance of a plant. ■■



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