

UniTRACK

NUCLEAR SERVICES NEWS

UniTech Services Group, Inc. • Volume 6 Issue 1 • June 2009

Lean, Green and Clean **An All-Points Review at Our Morris, IL Plant Serves as a Pilot for All UniTech Plants**

We like the way Peter Drucker, management guru, described efficiency. "Efficiency is doing better what is already being done." UniTech's Morris, IL plant certainly does it all: provides and launders protective clothing and accessories; respirator services; decontamination of tools and scaffolding; and much more. Its core group of 30 employees serve customers throughout the midwest all year long. We're pleased with our plant, our workflow and the way we service our customers, but we wanted to see what we could do even better.

That's when we called IMEC. IMEC is a team of specialists that works with Illinois companies to be more productive and globally competitive. IMEC helps companies develop profitable business strategies, meet customer quality requirements,

contain operating costs, increase capacity and on-time delivery, and solve technical operating problems such as product defects or process bottlenecks.

We were ready!
Mary Hallock, IMEC

Manufacturing Specialist, was our primary contact. She and her team (lean manufacturing, process and environmental experts) did a comprehensive goals definition and plant walk-through and then developed a "current map/future state map" of the facility and processes. They planned the steps to get from present to future, examining everything from how well the offices were organized and integrated with the laundry area to the state of our equipment,

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New UK Plant Opens, Serving ENS Customers from Oakdale **A Reliable Second Source for All Our European Customers**

Back in 2005, our steadily increasing business volume in and beyond the United Kingdom prompted UniTech to begin exploring the concept of opening a new plant. We needed this new facility and clean laundry to meet all our objectives, including good transport links and short routes to customer locations. After an initial analysis,

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SONGS and St. Lucie Outages Put Total Onsite Clothing Management Through Its Paces

Enhancing worker safety and controlling costs are two constants for every nuclear facility, especially during outages. During the most recent fall outages, UniTech provided its new Total Onsite Clothing Management Program to both SONGS and St. Lucie. The program is tailored for our One Program customers, and adds UniTech's professional team working onsite at the plant daily during the outage; onsite coordination of shipping and receiving; distribution of clothing; inventory management; support in reducing Personal Contamination Events (PCEs); and, optionally, a Mobile Safety Store to add management and on-time delivery of consumable products.



SONGS' experience leads to a commitment to use the program for upcoming Steam Generator Replacement Program (SGRP):

California's San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) employed the Total Onsite Clothing Management Program for its fall 2008 outage. This was the second time SONGS had used the program, and its success led to a decision to use UniTech's Total Onsite Clothing Management for a

project of larger magnitude: an estimated 90-day initiative to replace their steam generators, with an estimate of up to 325,000 dress-outs. (A typical outage takes 30-35 days and demands about 1,000 dress-outs per day; the SGRP will require about 3,000 dress-outs a day.)

Factors including lower costs, constant onsite support and greatly reduced number of PCEs influenced SONGS' decision. During the most recent outage, the estimated cost for disposables would have been approximately \$750,000. Using launderable clothing and UniTech's onsite management, SONGS saved approximately \$350,000. PCEs have been reduced during each outage: for the first outage, the goal was not to exceed 75. The actual number of PCEs was just 58. This time, the goal was to have no more than 60. The results? Only 44 PCEs during the entire outage!

During the most recent outage, UniTech was onsite at SONGS 24 hours a day. For the upcoming SGRP, it will do the same. Under the coordination of UniTech's Onsite

Protective Clothing Service Specialist, Tanya French, 10-12 UniTech staff members will provide this day-and-night support.

St. Lucie experiences the lowest number of PCEs for any outage in its history:

Last fall, with just 43 PCEs using UniTech's ProTech coveralls, as opposed to an estimate of up to 97 with disposables, St. Lucie had the most successful outage in its history.



St. Lucie's total garment costs were about 50 percent lower using launderables in place of expensive disposables. Cost savings were approximately \$200,000. Process improvements such as UniTech laundering slings and harnesses prior to the outage likely contributed to the reduction in PCEs as well: any leftover contamination from the previous outage was removed from these items. St. Lucie also enjoyed the peace of mind of having an emergency back-up trailer with 2,000 sets of inventory. UniTech Manager of Technical Accounts Dave Welcher, who oversaw the onsite program at St. Lucie, comments, "UniTech, backed by the buying power of parent company UniFirst, is uniquely equipped to respond to customers' every need without delay."

To learn more about how the Total Onsite Clothing Management Program can work for you, please talk with your UniTech Account Manager or our corporate sales group at (413) 543-6911. ■■

Customers enjoy the benefits...

- UniTech distributes protective clothing throughout the site as part of Total Onsite Clothing Management, so contract staff that used to do this task can now perform other critical outage work
- UniTech staff is onsite to resolve any emergent issues immediately
- You can focus on outage work and health physics coverage – you won't be worried about protective clothing needs
- We work on many outages, at plants around the world, and can provide immediate insight into reducing PCEs

Problem Solved!

New Offerings from UniTech

MAXAIR Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR): UniTech is the exclusive authorized nuclear industry distributor of the NIOSH-approved MAXAIR PAPR system, providing superior respiratory protection anywhere workers could be exposed to heat stress or contaminated air. MAXAIR increases worker productivity, reduces heat stress and offers greater freedom of movement. The system features a helmet, disposable HEPA filter, filter cover, and a choice of disposable cuff or shroud. It includes patented "hose-free" technology and LED visual safety indicators. Better than masks: there's no annual fit-testing needed!



MAXAIR beats masks in protection from airborne radioactive particulates. Its superior fit is eyeglasses and facial-hair friendly!

SeaLand Covers: Protect your SeaLand storage trailers from the ravages of weather with our new SeaLand covers. SeaLand covers are made from the highest quality WeatherMax material, an engineered polymer fabric designed specifically for constant outdoor use – it's UV and fade resistant as well as breathable. The covers maintain their shape, and are resistant to water, mildew and

sagging. Brass grommets are located every 12 inches across the bottom to securely attach the cover. Customers can opt to include an access panel with heavy-duty industrial Velcro closures.



SeaLand covers withstand the elements!

Coming soon! WeldingPlus Suit: Comfort and high-performance protection for welding and other heat-intensive tasks are combined in this coverall developed by our European subsidiary – ENS. On the front is a ceramic-coated Nomex fiber that can withstand major sparks and heat. The fiber resists static and contaminated particles. The back of the coverall is constructed using a lighter, more breathable Nomex Metal Pro fiber. The coverall maintains its effectiveness through many washings, and decontaminates easily. It complies with DIN EN 531 code A, B1, C1 and E1; ISO/FDIS 11612; DIN EN 470-1; ISO/DIS 11611; and pr EN 1149-3. The suit is now being broadly tested and we expect to make it available to customers within the next few months. ■■



Front of suit: Protects from sparks and heat! Back of suit: Light and breathable!

Upcoming Conferences

U.S.

- June 10-12: USA Conference/Nashville, TN
- June 23-25: EPRI/Knoxville, TN
- July 12-16: HPS Meeting/Minneapolis, MN
- July 20-22: PWR ALARA/San Diego, CA
- Aug. 2-6: Utility Working Conference/Amelia, FL
- Aug. 16-19: NEI/HP Meeting/Dana Point, CA

Recent Contract Highlights

- New Customer: Electric Boat, Quonset Point: Non-radiological Respirator Services
- Los Alamos: Contract Renewal, 5 Years
- Florida Power & Light, St. Lucie: ONE Program for April '09 Outage
- Exelon, Limerick: CoolTech Scrubs
- Raytheon Company: TOW RF Protective Missile Bags

- Ontario Power, Darlington: Plastic Ventilated Suits
- Nine Mile Point: GripTech Gloves, UniStock Laundry Dispenser
- PP&L, Susquehanna: GripTech Gloves, Microfiber Towels
- B & W, Oak Ridge Y-12: Coveralls
- Westinghouse, Waltz Mill: Disposable Coveralls, Gloves, Aprons, Booties

New Staff and a Promotion

Gary Hall has joined UniTech, Ltd., our UK subsidiary, as Technical Sales and Business Development Manager. Gary is responsible for customer service and sales of products and services to current customers. Additionally, he will develop a broader customer base by building relationships with customers outside the nuclear power station industry but within the UniTech business model. Originally from the United States, Gary and his wife have lived in England for the past four years. He has held leadership roles with several successful U.S. businesses including over 20 years with Wal-Mart Stores and Home Depot. Gary also owned a successful import wholesale company. His assignment prior to relocating to the U.K. was as Resource Centre Director of Operations within Camping World Inc. While in this role he was responsible for a nationwide team of specialized sales professionals.



Thomas Jäger has joined UniTech's ENS GmbH as its new Sales Manager. Thomas has been a sales professional for more than 20 years and is now ENS' contact person for customers, responding to their requests and questions concerning products and services. In his off hours, Thomas is a swim instructor and, together with his wife, competes in dance tournaments.

Lauren Goffredo has been promoted to Purchasing Specialist. Lauren's strong work ethic, attention to detail and knowledge of the UniTech business made her a perfect fit for this position. Lauren's duties include working with all UniTech facilities to fill requested orders, assisting Account Managers in developing sources and pricing for new products, handling all requests over the UniTech toll-free hot line, processing payment of all orders, and managing inventory transfers and receipts. Lauren began her career at UniTech three years ago working part time as a Records Administrator in the Health Physics department. Prior to coming to UniTech, Lauren studied Business Management at Holyoke Community College and worked for New York & Company. ■■



QA Brief: UniTech Greens Its Offices with These Tips

- Look for the "Energy Star" label for new equipment that requires less energy to operate than standard models.
- Switch to fluorescent lighting by using compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Turn off computers and other electrical items when not in use. If every US computer were turned off at night, the nation could avoid emitting at least seven million tons of CO² every year.
- Avoid unnecessary printing; reuse blank sides of paper; use printers that print on both sides of paper; eliminate fax cover sheets by using Post-it style fax labels. Purchase paper made from the highest percentage of post-consumer recycled content available. Buy paper that is processed chlorine free (PCF) instead of totally chlorine-free (TCF), because it is produced without elemental chlorine or chlorine derivatives. Buy in bulk – minimize packaging. Recycle.
- Use washable dishware.
- Recycle toner cartridges: <http://recycle4charity.clientrecycling.com>.
- Recycle work place batteries and small electric devices: <http://www.batteryrecycling.com>. ■■



Words of Wisdom

“We would accomplish many more things if we did not think of them as impossible.”

– Vince Lombardi
Football Coach and Motivational
Teacher, 1913-1970

Lean, Green and Clean

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the types of inventory we were holding – even what kinds of lighting we were using. IMEC looked at every step of the processes we employ for laundering garments. According to Hallock, “To improve company productivity and competitiveness is to preserve and grow jobs in the local area. ‘Clean and green’ means looking at preserving resources, and not just the natural environment but also people’s work time, efficient use of material, minimizing material disposal and making processes work as smoothly as possible. By doing this work, UniTech can add to its bottom line and grow.”



Hallock and her team also met with UniTech’s Morris and corporate executives, asking them questions and following through with recommendations to make the plant and its workflow leaner, greener and cleaner. Highlights of these recommendations included:

- 1) Adjust water use in wash cycles depending on the weight of the load to reduce water and waste-

water processing costs, as well as soap costs.

- 2) Consider conducting a compressed air system assessment to identify and eliminate leaks. This will help reduce energy consumption.
- 3) Investigate whether the heat filtered and exhausted from the dryers can be reused to pre-heat incoming air in order to reduce fuel consumption.
- 4) Investigate the purchase of a water softener system equipped with a brine recirculation system. This would reduce water use, sewer fees and salt purchases.
- 5) Replace conventional light bulbs in exit signs with LED bulbs. This will reduce energy usage and the frequency to change bulbs, hence reducing maintenance costs.
- 6) Determine what the optimum amount of soap and water is to clean each type of garment. This could reduce the volume of soap and water consumed.
- 7) Improve ergonomics in the ALM sorting area.

In the end, these and a range of other IMEC recommendations, when implemented, will save UniTech’s Morris facility almost a quarter million dollars annually – for an implementation cost of just \$90,000. Hallock comments, “We explored two areas of major opportunity: the first, to take advantage of energy



conservation to create a smaller footprint, thus lowering costs as well. The second is to enhance productivity, ergonomics and safety – making the workforce more effective and better taken care of. This too improves the bottom line and facilitates growth.”

That’s lean, green and clean indeed – and Morris is just the first stop in UniTech’s company-wide effort to streamline and enhance every area of our operations. ■■

New UK Plant Opens

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we focused on two options: upgrading the existing Peterborough site or developing a new plant along the corridor between London and Swansea. In 2007, we located a parcel of land with a nearly 2,500-square-meter (25,000-square-feet) building in an industrial area in Oakdale. Construction began in 2008, with local firms conducting renovation work and electrical installations and a German company installing exhaust air, waste water processing as well as environmental monitoring systems.



Today, thanks to having all the desired equipment and skills, the 25 employees in Oakdale can not only launder clothing but also provide expert tool and metal parts decontamination.

John Cuthbert manages the new Oakdale plant. A former lecturer at the North Highland College, Cuthbert had also previously worked for British Leyland and the British Atomic Energy Authority. ■ ■

Conference of Top Technical Innovations Features UniTech

Club des Radioprotectionnistes EDF conference allows professionals in the radiation field to collaborate and share knowledge. At the club's most recent conference, each exhibiting company provided an exhibit expressing a theme related to radiation protection. We demonstrated our ventilated and washable cartridge filter masks for respiratory protection, showing one way that technical innovation coupled with environmental protection allows us to respond to customer needs. We enjoyed over a hundred visitors to our display. ■ ■



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U.S. Locations

Corporate Office

UniTech Services Group, Inc.
295 Parker Street
P.O. Box 51957
Springfield, MA 01151
Toll free: 800-344-3824
Tel: 413-543-6911
Fax: 413-543-6989
E-mail: info@unitech.ws
www.unitech.ws

Plants

Springfield, MA
Royersford, PA
Oak Ridge, TN
Barnwell, SC
Macon, GA
Morris, IL
Santa Fe, NM
Ontario, CA
Richland, WA

UT-09-001

EU Locations

Euro Nuclear Services B.V.

De Mars 11, NL-7742 PT Coevorden, NL or
Postbus 322, 7740 AH Coevorden, NL
Tel: 011-31-524-599-699
Fax: 011-31-524-599-688
Email: ens@unitech.ws

ENS GmbH

Gewerbering 1
D-86679 Ellgau, Germany
Tel: 011-49-8273-995940
Fax: 011-49-8273-995945 / 46
Email: ensgmbh@unitech.ws

UniTech Services Group Ltd.

Unit 3 Oakwood Close
Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate
Crumlin, Gwent
Wales NP11 3HY
Tel: 011-44-1495-240-774
Fax: 011-44-1495-240-982
Email: unitechltd@unitech.ws