

# UniTRACK

NUCLEAR SERVICES NEWS

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## Prescription for Success: UniTech Partners with SONGS To Reduce PCEs During Scheduled Outage

Located on 84 acres along the Pacific coast of California, the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) provides nearly 20% of the electrical power used by residents of Southern California. Jointly owned by Southern California Edison (SCE), San Diego Gas & Electric and the cities of Riverside and Anaheim, the station brings power to more than 15 million people – enough to serve 2.75 million households.

Just months away from a scheduled refueling outage, SONGS lowered its goal to be consistent with high industry standards for personnel contamination events (PCEs). "To meet the goal, SONGS tried quickly to identify how to minimize personnel contamination events," said Dick Downard, Technical Accounts Manager, UniTech Services Group. Initially, SONGS looked to disposable protective clothing, in hopes that it would help reduce PCEs, but protective clothing was just one of the issues they were facing. During the fall 2006 outage, SONGS set a goal of having no more than 125 PCEs. At the end, it was faced with 227. Following that outage, SONGS staff



San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS)

committed themselves to addressing three key areas of improvement: worker behavior, work processes and protective clothing.

At this point, UniTech became involved. In January 2007, SONGS teamed up with UniTech to develop a customized program that would help SONGS staff address their goals for the next scheduled outage. "Our program had to go beyond just protective clothing," said Downard. The new program was designed to be a true partnership in which UniTech helped SONGS achieve long-term success. And, according to Downard, "SONGS was very open to new ways of doing things."

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## New CoolTech Scrubs: Greater Comfort, Lower Cost Per Use

Today's athletic apparel is designed to help athletes stay cool, dry and comfortable during workouts. Now, the same moisture-wicking technology is available in UniTech's newest line of undergarments, CoolTech scrubs.

"CoolTech scrubs are more comfortable than disposable scrubs because they help wick moisture away from the body and dry quickly," said Gregg Johnstone, Director of Sales and Marketing, UniTech Services Group. A tight material weave provides improved protection and prevents lint build-up commonly found in cotton scrubs.



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## Safety First:

### UniTech Partners with Radiation Safety & Control Services, Inc. To Increase Worker Awareness and Reduce PCEs

It's a fact: the face of the nuclear industry is changing. The average age of nuclear workers is over 40, and as new, younger employees come into the industry, plant managers are challenged with providing effective training to aid workers in performing safe practices in the field. Plant employees and contractors with limited experience working in radioactively contaminated areas may be unaware of the ways in which radioactive material can travel – leading to increased personnel and equipment contamination events. Contamination events can increase downtime, can pose additional risks for other workers and, ultimately, increase risk and cost for the licensee. Effective training is needed, industry-wide, to minimize these concerns and help make plants more efficient.

No one understands this better than Jay Tarzia, Executive Director of Radiation Safety & Control Services (RSCS). Based in Stratham, NH, and in business since 1989, RSCS provides professional health physics services and postsecondary training for users of radioactive material. RSCS owns and operates a radiation calibration and repair facility, provides operational, outage and decommissioning support and has significant experience in developing and implementing effective contamination control techniques at nuclear facilities. RSCS recently teamed up with UniTech to develop a comprehensive contamination control training program available to UniTech's customers. Training sessions will begin this summer.

"What we're offering is a series of radiation safety modules for plant management and plant employees," said Tarzia. "We're addressing the significant issues related to contamination control, and how contamination control processes can be improved. Ultimately, we hope to help our clients use UniTech's products effectively and reduce Personal Contamination Events (PCEs), minimizing liability and increasing productivity for plants."

RSCS is building a curriculum of courses at all levels, from basic to advanced, which includes both classroom training and practical demonstrations to illustrate how contamination moves within (and, potentially, outside of) contaminated areas. "The courses aren't just theory-based," said Tarzia. "We're using simulators that illustrate the nature of contamination migration very effectively."

The RSCS training simulators incorporate handheld simulated radiation detectors, which are designed to detect a fake spray "contaminant" that dissipates after the training sessions. During the practical demonstrations, plant workers will don and doff different types of protective garments and witness how real contamination can spread. They'll learn how to protect themselves by using the garments properly and following guidelines that minimize the transfer of radioactive material.

"Most of us learn by doing, and that's why the practical training piece is so crucial. It's exactly what new plant workers need to keep themselves – and their colleagues – safe," said Gregg Johnstone, Director of Sales and Marketing for UniTech. "We expect that this training will dramatically improve the contamination control practices of this new generation of radworkers, resulting in lower levels of PCEs."

UniTech will offer incentives for clients to take part in the RSCS training program, and will offer specific courses appropriate to the types of UniTech garments used. UniTech sales representatives will be available to help clients make appropriate curriculum selections and plan for a successful educational program. ■■

A nuclear employee is observed as he uses a simulation system.



## CoolTech Scrubs

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CoolTech scrubs also feature an anti-static grid, which minimizes radon adherence concerns. And, similar to medical scrubs, they are designed with a more professional look in mind.

Each pair of scrubs is embedded with a small anti-theft wire, sewn into a seam in a way that is virtually undetectable as well as comfortable for the wearer.

"When used in conjunction with UniTech's Garment Sentry, it ensures that employees are not wearing scrubs outside the plant," said Johnstone.

## Keeping It Clean

UniTech has expanded its regional decontamination facilities to include separate radiologically clean, controlled laundries. These new facilities provide a dedicated area within UniTech's licensed facility to launder CoolTech scrubs and other radiologically clean laundry. All shipments brought into the facility are screened, laundered and tested to verify they are radiologically clean before being shipped back to our customers.

"CoolTech scrubs are also long-lasting," added Johnstone. "When compared with disposables, the cost per use is much lower."

For more information about new CoolTech Scrubs, contact your local UniTech representative. ■■



## A Plan for Progress: UniTech/ENS Workshops Help Clients Learn from Experience

On May 28 and 29, ENS customers gathered at Breadsall Priory in Derby, England to share their experiences and gather new information on the latest products, processes and progress in the nuclear industry. The theme of this year's meeting was "Emergency Response and Working in Confined Spaces." Presentation topics included the latest in respiration and communication systems, disposable air fed suits and decontamination shelters. UniTech's UK Sales Manager, Neil Denton, also provided an overview of the new Oakdale ENS facility, which will open its doors in September of 2008. The new plant is set to offer a range of services including tool and metal decontamination. Customers were also introduced to John Cuthbert, the plant's new manager.

The conference, sponsored by manufacturers National Textile, Dragar UK, PPS, Tarps, and UK Safety, drew approximately 30 customers from all areas of the nuclear sector, including representatives from the British Nuclear Group, Atomic Weapons (AWE), Magnox north and south, UKAEA, and AWE Aldermaston.

And September 24-25, a two-day Users' Group Meeting will take place in Seefeld, Austria. Participants from the United States, Canada, Germany, UK, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Romania, and the Netherlands will gather to share information and successes.

The topic of the meeting is "Effective Waste Reduction Through Modern Protective Clothing." Presentations by UniTech and ENS clients will take place on September 24.

On September 25, the group will visit the Swiss radioactive waste treatment center Zwiilag to see a modern, powerful laser burner.

If you are interested in learning more about future UniTech/ENS workshops, please contact your UniTech/ENS representative. ■■

## New Facility, New Careers

We are pleased to welcome a new member of our team and extend our congratulations to an existing employee who is moving up. John Cuthbert was recently brought on board to run the new Oakdale, UK plant, and Lonnie Perez has been promoted from Operations Assistant to Technical Account Specialist at the Springfield, MA headquarters.

**John Cuthbert** boasts an extensive background in the nuclear industry that he will put to use as Plant Manager of UniTech's newest facility in Oakdale, England, which is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. This new plant will act as a much-needed home base for the UK market, reducing transport from the Netherlands and bringing the plant closer to UniTech's UK customer base. John Cuthbert will manage all activities for the plant, insuring a smooth transition and addressing customer concerns.

John previously served as the PPE Manager of the UK Atomic Energy Authority in Dounreay, Scotland, for eight years. He also has a background in education and served as a lecturer, teaching business management courses at North Highland College for 16 years. He received his honor's degree in business management from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. Prior to receiving his degree, John acted as the Service Liaison for British Leyland for nine years, providing engineering-based technological problem solving for customers.

**Lonnie Perez** began her career at UniTech in September 2005, working as an Operations Assistant for A/R. Prior to joining UniTech, she worked in the accounting department of ACM, a copier/ fax distributing company, for eight years. There, she performed credit checks and managed invoices. In her new position as a Technical Account Specialist, she will work closely with UniTech sales representatives, manage expense reports, update and maintain monthly accounting spreadsheets, and assist with trade shows. ■■



**“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”**

— John F. Kennedy

### Upcoming Conferences

#### U.S.

- Jun. 8-11: Rapid Conference/Tampa, FL
- Jun. 8-12: ICAPP/Anaheim, CA
- Jun. 24-28: EPRI - Radioactive Waste/Orlando, FL
- Jul. 13-17: HPS Meeting/ Pittsburgh, PA
- Jul. 20-24: PWR ALARA/Las Vegas, NV
- Jul. 23-25: NISHA Conference/Knoxville, TN
- Aug. 3-6: Utility Working Conference/Amelia Island, FL
- Aug. 18-20: NEI/HP Meeting/ Denver, CO
- Sept. 7-10: ACHMM Conference/ Minneapolis, MN
- Nov. 4-6: ETEBA /Knoxville, TN

- Dec. 2-4: Nuclear Power International/Orlando, FL

- Dec. 9-11: Perma Fix/Nashville, TN

#### Canada

- Jun. 1-4: CNS/Toronto, Ontario
- Jun. 2-5: CRPA/Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- Jun. 25-27: USA Conference/Niagra Falls, Ontario

#### Europe

- Sept. 17-21: European Nuclear Conference/Krakow, Poland
- Oct. 21-23: EPRI Decommissioning Conf/Lyon, France
- Oct. 28-30: EPRI 7th Decom. & Radioactive Waste Workshop/France

### Recent Contract Highlights

- AECL-NB Power, Rebuild project items filtration units, bags, wipers, stachions, plastic suits, gamma meters, ducting, etc.
- PP&L Susquehanna, SoftTech, DsolvTech, gloves, booties, lab coats, etc.
- Nuclear Fuel Service, UniTreks
- Exelon Limerick, Quad Cities LaSalle, Mobile Safety Stores
- OPG-Pickering, Darlington, UniStock laundry containers, tool & HP belt bags
- Hydro Quebec, ProTech coveralls, nylon shoe covers
- Bechtel Bettis, ProTech bag suits
- SCE&G-VC Summer, Contract renewal
- FP&L - St. Lucie, Scaffold decontamination

## Prescription for Success

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On-site Mobile Safety Store kept supplies stocked and ready for immediate use.

"First, we were able to share some of what we had learned from other plants' successes," said Tanya French, Assistant Technical Accounts Manager, UniTech Services Group. Since worker behavior was earmarked as an area for improvement, UniTech worked alongside SONGS to help develop a protective clothing prescription program. This included pre-outage training sessions, posters and broadcast e-mails to all employees that outlined proper ways to use UniTech garments.

"For example, we needed to communicate to employees that if you are going to be in a wet environment, you need to wear ProTech Plus coveralls and a CASI suit," said Downard. "Ultimately, we needed to empower the employees to take ownership of the program." The SONGS prescription

included ProTech Plus coveralls, hoods, shoe covers, and rubber gloves. ProTech Plus is a lightweight synthetic garment with outstanding strength and barrier performance.

The partnership is a complete lease and laundry program in which UniTech works on-site to ensure that supplies are fully stocked and laid out for worker use.

As part of its service contract with SONGS, UniTech arranged to have three UniTech staff members and a Mobile Safety Store on site throughout the scheduled outage. "This provided us with the ability to quickly change processes or respond to the dynamic needs of an outage," said French, who led the UniTech on-site team. During the outage, SONGS was faced with contamination issues in clean areas. "We were able to provide product recommendations, including the use of UniTech's UltraWipe, a decon wiper with high liquid and oil absorption capacity." This instant supply of new materials was one of the keys to SONGS' success.

The UniTech Mobile Safety Store was also instrumental in providing just-in-time delivery of items and avoiding overnight deliveries. "The SONGS procurement staff didn't have to think about protective clothing," said Downard. "But this wasn't just about

protective clothing," added French. "We partnered with SONGS in every area in which they needed to make improvements."

The goal of the 2007 outage was to have no more than 75 PCEs. With the SONGS/UniTech partnership in place, SONGS successfully finished a 53-day outage with just 58 PCEs (with only 3 attributable to protective clothing). According to Downard, "Our SONGS experience is one of the best examples of how UniTech's hybrid programs can help solve a problem." ■ ■



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