



Phase I construction is under way

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Phase I construction of The International Center for Water Technology has begun. Construction fencing has been put up and work on the underground utilities is progressing. The \$3 million Hydraulic Research and Testing facility will be located on the southwest corner of Chestnut and Barstow. Phase I construction is scheduled for completion in late 2005. The new lab is one of two buildings that will house ICWT. Check the ICWT web site (www.icwt.net) to view the latest construction progress.

Fresno Solar 2005 Conference

April 1, 2005 * California State University, Fresno * 9am to 4pm

California State University, Fresno and the Great Valley Center are partnering on a first of its kind regional solar conference that will be held on Friday, April 1st at Craig School of Business. The conference will bring leaders from around the state to share how and why businesses and municipal agencies can seize upon solar as a strategic energy opportunity.

The conference will provide: the tools needed to evaluate a solar system; an overview of the solar market; information on available incentive programs; and afternoon breakout sessions geared towards both agriculture and commercial applications.

Businesses, farms, municipal agencies, or water districts who are considering solar alternatives should attend this conference.

Speakers include:

- Adam Browning, Vote Solar (www.votesolar.org)
- Bruce Baccei, ConSol (www.consol.ws)
- Gary Martin, Locke Ranch in Firebaugh
- Wilmar Boschman, Semitropic Water Storage District

In other areas an increase in demand for solar technologies has led to new local jobs and more efficient businesses. By aggressively deploying solar as the region expands, the San Joaquin Valley can take a proactive role in its economic security and its impact on our environment. Solar can also be a strong step in diversifying and strengthening the region's economic base. Another forum is planned for Summer 2005 focusing entirely on the topic of residential solar retrofits.

Fresno State is a member of a Central Valley "Million Solar Roof Partnership." This partnership, led by the Great Valley Center, has been sponsored by an initial grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The partnership's mission is to help the region capitalize on its solar potential. Tangible goals are to catalyze the installation of, at least, four additional megawatts of solar in the region by 2010.

A \$30 registration fee includes conference materials and lunch. Space is limited. Vendor opportunities are also available. Further event details and registration information can be found at www.greatvalley.org/solar.

CIT pioneer Ed Norum wins national honor



Edward Norum, the first executive director of The Center for Irrigation Technology (CIT) at California State University, Fresno, has been named 2004 Person of the Year by the

Irrigation Association. He was honored Nov. 15 at the International Irrigation Show in Tampa, Fla.

The award, established in 1952, goes to individuals outside the industry who have made outstanding contributions toward the acceptance of sound irrigation practices. Norum continues to work for CIT as a consulting engineer and owns a consulting business.

“It’s a passion for irrigation, supported by a strong work ethic, that has enabled Ed to make all the contributions he has to the industry,” said Irrigation Association’s president and current CIT director David Zoldoske of Fresno State. Zoldoske presented Norum with the award.

Norum is the third IA Person of the Year from Fresno State. Dr. Winston Strong, plant science professor, won the honor in 1974, and Dr. Kenneth Solomon, former director of CIT, won in 1990. No other university has had as many honorees for Irrigation Association Person of the Year.

Zoldoske said that it was Norum’s vision that led to CIT’s irrigation equipment testing laboratory. “He designed the

first building, test fixtures and worked with the industry to develop the whole program.”

Norum currently is involved in the design and development of the new International Center for Water Technology (ICWT) at Fresno State. The \$25 million dollar venture is a joint project between water technology manufacturers in the San Joaquin Valley and Fresno State and will include two separate facilities, the first of which will begin construction in the spring of 2005.

Norum’s multidisciplinary approach to irrigation engineering has been at the forefront of his pioneering efforts, including early experiments using subsurface drip on sugar cane. Before settling in California, Norum also worked at Lockwood Corp., a center pivot manufacturer in Nebraska. His career includes extensive experience overseas, including work with the U.S. Agency for International Development on an irrigation restoration project in Jamaica. Norum has represented the Irrigation Association and the United States at the International Organization for Standardization at meetings around the world, and has worked in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America.

Norum, a professional engineer, holds three patents for irrigation equipment and is active in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers as well as the U.S. Committee on Irrigation and Drainage. He offers technical advice for Smart Water Application Technology, the Irrigation Association’s program to gain acceptance for water-saving irrigation technology like weather-based controllers and moisture sensors.

CA-LEEP brings energy efficiency to the forefront

CA-LEEP (www.caleep.com) is a state-sponsored program that was created to develop aggressive energy efficiency “roadmaps” for six regions of California, each tailored to a region’s particular needs. For the Fresno region, CA-LEEP is working through the **Regional Jobs Initiative (RJI)**.

The objective of each roadmap is to craft an energy efficiency plan that stimulates local job creation and charts a path for businesses within selected clusters to save

thousands of dollars per year on energy bills. The lead consultant implementing the CA-LEEP program is Navigant Consulting, Inc. (www.navigantconsulting.com).

The work performed for each of the selected RJI clusters is free. It includes interviews, some site surveys, a compilation of best practices among the industry nationwide, establishing a local and industry-wide baseline for energy usage, and energy bill analysis. The roadmaps are slated to be completed and released by September 2005.

More importantly, the completed roadmaps will position each cluster to pursue more substantial grants for 2006 to implement the recommendations. In 2003, there was over \$350 million available to businesses and more is expected in 2006. If the members of RJI's water technology cluster were to work with CA-LEEP, the cluster might have a strong opportunity to secure grant funding in 2006.

In the following weeks a survey will be circulated from CA-LEEP to the members of the Water Technology Cluster. When you have a moment, please respond to it. From that point, the consultants for the project will be assembling a small focus group and interviewing selected respondents.

Cluster encouraged to take advantage of the Workforce Connection Business Services Center

Workforce Connection has a state-of-the-art Business Services Center that is now available to accommodate local businesses in the following areas:

- Free job board available to quickly and easily post jobs that are accessible to job seekers throughout Fresno County.
- Assistance with accessing a variety of business tax credits and savings.
- Layoff aversion and outplacement services.
- Business plan development and analysis conducted by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), a Workforce Connection partner.
- Access to other community business resource services as needed.

For more information call (559) 230-4062 or 1-877-954-HIRE (4473), or log on to our web site at www.workforce-connection.com.

Industry News

Netafim Irrigation Controller Awarded Best New Product



Fresno, CA –Netafim USA, the industry-leading manufacturer of micro-irrigation systems won the honor of best new product for the NMC-64 irrigation and fertigation controller. The award was announced on November 15, 2004 in Tampa, Florida at the 25th Annual International Irrigation Show.

The NMC-64 controller is designed to extend water and fertilizer management skills to the field while attention is demanded elsewhere. This new controller offers ease of programming, monitoring and accumulating logged data. As a result, users will see reduced input costs: water, energy, chemical and fertilizer.

The simplicity of the NMC-64 controller is evident in the graphical interface, as well as allowing the user to repeat or modify the scheduling in order to assure maximum crop output. "The feature we like the best from the NMC-64 controller is that it is just as easy to program on the unit as on a PC due to the multi-line display," said Dirk Keeler, co-owner of New Mexico Irrigation located in Deming, New Mexico. New Mexico Irrigation installed the first NMC-64 controller in April of 2004.

Awarded **ISO 9001:2000 Certification** by the International Organization for Standardization - Netafim USA is the largest growing division of the Netafim International Group, the pioneer of micro-irrigation technology. With over 39 years in the irrigation industry and global expertise in more than 80 countries, Netafim offers a full line of products for a variety of markets including agriculture, landscape, greenhouse, nursery, mining and wastewater. Netafim USA is headquartered in Fresno, California.



INDUSTRY INFORMATION

Would you like to publicize your company's latest accomplishments? Please forward industry news to Laura Ramos at lramos@csufresno.edu or fax it to (559) 278-6033.

Contact: Kelly Davenport
kdavenport@netafimusa.com
559.253.2512; 559.453.6803 (FAX)

R&D money for small to medium size companies

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) is a three-phase federal government funding program, designed to stimulate technological innovation and provide opportunities for small businesses. This dynamic teaming of the private and public sectors includes joint venture opportunities for small businesses and the nation's premier nonprofit research institutions.

The purpose is to support scientific excellence and technological innovation through the investment of federal funds in critical American priorities to build a strong national economy... one small business at a time.

The SBIR program solicitations are issued by eleven federal agencies, including the Department of Agriculture; the Department of Commerce; the Department of Defense; the Department of Education; the Department of Energy; the Department of Health and Human Services; the Department of Homeland Security; the Department of Transportation; the Environmental Protection Agency; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and the National Science Foundation.

Agencies involved in this program fall into two categories:

Contracting Agencies: These are agencies that establish plans, protocols, and requirements. These agencies have topics that are highly focused, with procurement mechanisms and have more fiscal requirements.

Agencies in this category are: Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services; NASA; Department of Energy; Department of Homeland Security; Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Transportation; and the Department of Commerce.

Granting Agencies: Agencies in which topics are initiated by the investigator. They have less specific topics and assistance mechanisms, as well as more flexibility.

Agencies in this category are: Health and Human Services; National Science Foundation; Department of Energy; USDA, and the Department of Energy.

For more information about the SBIR program, visit <http://www.sba.gov/sbir/indexsbir-sttr.html>.

SBIR Training on May 26, 2005 at Fresno State. For more information or to RSVP contact Laura Ramos at Iramos@csufresno.edu

WATER CLUSTER MEETING

**March 17, 2005
9 – 11 A.M.**

*Piccadilly Inn - Airport
5115 McKinley
Fresno, CA 93727*

**Please RSVP to Iramos@csufresno.edu
or (559)278-2066**

FROM THE NORTH

- Take HWY 99 SOUTH TO 180 EAST exit towards KINGS CANYON
- Take CA 168 EAST exit towards CLOVIS/HUNTINGTON LAKE
- Take the MCKINLEY AVE. exit
- Turn LEFT on E. MCKINLEY AVENUE
- GO APPROX. 1.5 MILES—AIRPORT PICCADILLY INN WILL BE ON THE LEFT

FROM THE SOUTH

- Take HWY 99 NORTH TO CLOVIS AVE. exit towards CLOVIS
- Continue on CLOVIS AVENUE APPROX. 8.5 MILES
- Turn LEFT on E. MCKINLEY AVE.—GO APPROX. 1 MILE—AIRPORT PICCADILLY INN WILL BE ON THE RIGHT.