

e-bulletin

June 2008

Welcome to the latest e-bulletin from tech partners. In this edition we highlight issues related to energy consumption and emissions trading. The May Budget and initiatives for funding opportunities and an award for one of our projects are also discussed.

Cheers Glenn

Sustainability Awards

On April 17 Dulux Powder Coatings took out the 2008 Premier's Sustainability Award for Products and Services in Melbourne. The award recognizes the partnership between CSIRO, Dulux Powder Coating, Tech Partners Australia and Sustainability Victoria to develop 'Zero Waste Powder Coatings'.

The Premier's Sustainability Awards recognise businesses, communities and individuals in the Australian state of Victoria that demonstrate outstanding leadership and contribute to a more sustainable future.

The entry was based on the development of a new powder coating technology suitable for plastics and other heat sensitive substrates, and is the result of several years work by Dulux Powder Coatings and CSIRO.

Tech Partners Australia were pleased to offer our services to identify the project partners, develop the project direction and funding and provide ongoing project management and partner interface support.

This partnership resulted in the development of technology that will generate minimal waste, minimise the release of harmful chemicals to the environment and help to deliver significant savings in cost, electricity, and greenhouse gas emissions. The new powder coating system has been successfully trialled in the Australian state of Victoria, and is now being customised for coating automotive plastics and is in demand by customers interstate and overseas.

Check the pictures at:

<http://www.techpartners.com.au/USERIMAGES/SusAwardGroupS.jpg>

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May Budget

The Australian Federal government introduced a number of changes to funding for Innovation and research in the May 2008 budget.

Budget initiatives for the Innovation, Industry, Science and Research portfolio include:

- \$209 million over four years to double the number of Australian Postgraduate Awards.
- A \$326.2 million investment over four years in Future Fellowships, to attract and retain the best and brightest mid-career researchers.
- \$240 million over four years for new Clean Business Australia initiatives. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$
- \$42 million over four years to provide funding to over 30 Business Enterprise Centres providing business advisory services to small businesses. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$
- Introduction of a Small Business Advisory Committee to help monitor regulation.
- \$500 million over five years commencing in 2011-12 for the Green Car Innovation Fund.
- A range of savings measures aimed at contributing to the Australian Government's savings plan and fight against inflation. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

The budget scrapped the Commercial Ready Fund with no new funding rounds available. R&D tax concessions will remain but will be reviewed. Call us if you need support in getting an R&D project funded.

Energy and Carbon Trading

Much has been made of Australia moving to an emissions trading scheme (ETS) for Green House Gases at the end of 2010. However there has been little comment about the measures that other agencies are undertaking in the lead up to the implementation.

Firstly the Federal Government have two initiatives that come into action in the coming 12 months. The first is Energy Efficiency Opportunities (EEO). Participation in Energy Efficiency Opportunities is mandatory for corporations that use more than 0.5 Petajoules (PJ) of energy per year. This is approximately equivalent to the energy used by 10,000 households. Corporations that used more than 0.5 petajoules of energy during 2006-07 must submit an assessment and reporting schedule by 31 December 2008.

As a guide, those using more than 0.5 Petajoules (PJ) a year may typically have an annual energy bill of more than \$1.5 million for gas, \$5 million for electricity, \$11 million for diesel fuel or \$13 million

for unleaded petrol (depending on prices). Put another way, 0.5 PJ approximately equals 139,000 MWh, 13 ML diesel, 9000 tonnes of LNG or 10,000 tonnes of LPG.

The program applies to corporations in all sectors of the economy. Businesses participating in Energy Efficiency Opportunities are required to undertake a detailed energy assessment in order to identify opportunities to improve energy use, and to report publicly on the outcomes.

Energy Efficiency Opportunities is designed to lead to:

- improved identification and uptake of cost-effective energy efficiency opportunities
- improved productivity and reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- greater scrutiny of energy use by large energy consumers

The second is National Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reporting System, (NGERS). The NGERS process requires organisation with 500TJ of energy use or sites with 100TJ of energy use to report their 2008/2009 energy use to the Government. Affected parties need to register for reporting by 31st of August 2009 and provide a report for the 2008/2009 fiscal year by the 31st of October 2009.

Finally the Environment and Resource Efficiency Planning (EREP) requirements for Victorian businesses have just been initiated. Sites that use 100TJ of energy and/or 100ML of water are required to register and develop an Energy and Resource Efficiency Plan that has to be submitted to the Vic EPA by December 31st 2008. In the planning process opportunities for energy and water use reduction are identified and if the payback period is less than 3 years the project has to be implemented.



Whilst these programs are separate to the ETS they are interlinked and highlight the need for high energy users to understand their energy use and to develop a strategy to tackle energy use and the ETS.

Our advise is:

- Identify sources and overall size of energy use now.
- Establish robust GHGE accounting policies and procedures now.
- Factor the cost of carbon into all capital projects now.
- Understand the impact of capital projects on emissions now.

We are able to offer a full support service for these issues and those relating to ETS. Please contact us to discuss your needs.

And another thing.....

Administratium, A New Element!

The heaviest element known to science was recently discovered by materials researchers at IPRT/ISU. The new element, tentatively named Administratium, has no protons or electrons, and thus has an atomic weight of 0. However, it does have one neuron, 125 assistant neutrons, 75 vice neutrons, and 111 assistant vice neutrons. This gives it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together in a nucleus by a force that involves the continuous exchange of particles called morons.

Since it has no electrons, Administratium is totally inert. However, it can be detected chemically, since it impedes every reaction it comes into contact with. According to discoverers, a tiny amount of Administratium caused one reaction to take over four days to complete; the normal reaction time is less than one second.

Administratium has a normal half life of approximately three years, at which time it does not actually decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which neutrons, vice neutrons, and assistant vice neutrons exchange places. Studies have shown that the atomic mass usually increases after each reorganization.

Research at other laboratories indicates that Administratium occurs naturally in the atmosphere. It tends to concentrate at certain points, such as governmental agencies, large corporations, and universities. It is always found in the newest, best appointed and best maintained buildings.

Scientists point out that Administratium is known to be toxic at any level of concentration and can easily destroy any productive reactions where it is allowed to accumulate. Attempts are being made to determine how Administratium can be controlled to prevent irreversible damage, but results to date are not promising.

About Us.

Tech Partners Australia is an independent Technical Service provider to the composite wood panels industry. Glenn Ryan who has 25 years experience in industry runs the organization. His experience covers Quality Management, Technical Service and R&D Management.

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