

SRS Engineering Set For Explosive Growth

Story/photo Jann Gentry

SRS Engineering Corporation, located in Murrieta, has garnered nationwide interest and recognition with its focus on biodiesel fuel plants. This homegrown engineering company, started 25 years ago by George Hawranik in his garage, is currently one of the largest and most esteemed manufacturers of biodiesel plant equipment in the nation. Today SRS is manufacturing everything a plant needs to begin manufacturing biodiesel fuel, and they are shipping their parts out all over the U.S. and Canada.

The biggest news, however, is the fact that the company is expanding at an ever-increasing rate and, according to CEO Clayton Hawranik,

is set to make a huge impact in employment opportunities in Southwestern Riverside County as it seeks more and more people to work for them in their Murrieta plant. The fact that they are growing got the attention of CNN News, which recently ran a feature on the company.

"We need at least 10 more people right now," said Hawranik. "As we gear up to service our



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new contracts, we're going to need even more." In today's economy, where too many companies are shutting down or letting workers go, this is good news. "We need welders, assembly workers, parts controllers, production managers, engineers, and more." Predicted expansion this year will require even more workers, perhaps several dozen more.

What is fueling the high demand for workers? The biodiesel fuel industry is ready to catapult into a fast-paced, high-demand, highly technical force in an industry where economics and environment overlap and are "making nice" with each other. Hundreds of plants are being built or retrofitted across the United States to take advantage of the alternative fuel trend and in order to build those plants, someone has to create the infrastructure. It's at this point that SRS Engineering has entered the fray.

If biodiesel fuel is the wave of the future, then the future has come to Murrieta.

Biodiesel fuel has excited investors and fuel companies with the potential for profit alongside its potential for lessening the impact fuel has on the environment. Biodiesel fuel is created from renewable sources such as soybean and corn oil, but even more impressive is its recycling of renewable waste materials to create two products in one: the fuel itself and glycerin, which has its own list of uses in consumable products.

"What's great is that biodiesel fuel can be made from waste materials we wouldn't even eat or feed to animals," said Hawranik. "And yet everything that results from the manufacturing process is used in other applications—there is no waste. Biodiesel fuel burns cleaner than regular diesel and helps improve emissions.

"There is huge potential here and more and more companies are seeing it and want to build fuel plants," he said. According to the National Biodiesel Board (NBB.org), 500,000 gallons of biodiesel fuel were produced in 1999; in 2008 there were 700 million gallons.

The plants SRS builds use multiple sources of feedstock—or waste product—as opposed to plants that use only soy oil or corn, for example. This makes their plants versatile and cost effective. And, the plants provide a valuable service in recycling a material (used fat) that would otherwise be stored in a landfill. In some cases the plant owners have the potential for seeing their plants paid off in as little as six months.

According to Marketing Director Valerie Church, potential clients are seeking out SRS for help in constructing or retro-fitting plants; they don't have to do much selling. SRS is already scheduled to ramp up production, and revenues, by 400 percent this year. They've already seen as much activity in the first quarter of this year as they did in all of 2008.

"We need to reduce our dependency on foreign oil," said Hawranik. "I believe this is the way to do it. Besides, it's really gratifying to give people honest, substantial work to do and know you're helping them, their families, and the environment all in one. Not only do we employ people here at home, but at least 50 or 60 workers are needed at the construction site once it gets underway. Then there are the transportation companies we work with and all the construction subcontractors. I could go on and on!"

Worldwide notice of SRS is evident as last month delegates from Indonesia met with Clayton Hawranik. They discussed the feasibility of a biodiesel plant being built in Indonesia, along with the possibility of exporting palm oil to the U.S., as Indonesia is now the largest producer of palm oil in the world.

It seems everyone is taking notice of the little engineering company tucked away in the industrial corner of Murrieta that is making a huge impact in alternative fuels and helping to save our environment.

If you want to know more about SRS Engineering or about their list of job openings, contact Valerie Church at (951)526-2239, or visit one of their websites: www.srsengineering.com or www.srsbiodiesel.com.