

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Greenhouse Gas Technology Center Completes Verification for COMM Engineering's Environmental Vapor Recovery Unit

*Technology recovers waste gases, including GHGs and pollutants,
at oil and gas processing plants*

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC (January 13, 2003) – The Greenhouse Gas Technology Center (GHG Center) today announced that it has independently verified the performance of a new device, the patented Environmental Vapor Recovery Unit (EVRU™) developed by Lafayette, La.-based COMM Engineering, USA.

The EVRU™ technology uses energy from existing high-pressure natural gas to power its waste gas recovery functions (external power is not required). It captures valuable waste gases at different pressures using a closed-loop system, pressurizes those gases to allow their discharge into existing natural gas pipelines for sale and use, paying for itself in very short order.

Independent performance verification of the EVRU was conducted at the TotalFinaElf (TFE)—El Ebanito site near McAllen, Texas. A synopsis and final performance evaluation report can be accessed on the U.S. EPA ETV website at <http://www.epa.gov/etv/verifications/vcenter3-10.html>.

“COMM Engineering worked with the GHG Center for approximately one year in our quest for technology verification,” said Mark Goodyear, president of COMM Engineering. “We can attest that this program helps cost effective technologies obtain credibility with the end user, and provides an unbiased assessment of a technology. This experience has been a brilliant example of how a government agency can facilitate free enterprise and enhance the environment.”

The GHG Center is a public/private partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Birmingham, Ala.-based Southern Research Institute, operating under the EPA's Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) program. The GHG Center looks for promising greenhouse gas mitigation technologies, subjects them to independent third-party performance testing, and provides performance results to the public free of charge. To date, the GHG Center has verified—or is in the process of verifying—22 different environmental and energy technologies that can significantly impact greenhouse gas and other emissions.

Verifications generally involve the measurement of energy conversion efficiency, air pollution emission rates (e.g., GHGs, criteria pollutants, other pollutants), secondary environmental impacts, electrical power quality, operational availability, cost, payback period, and other variables of interest to purchasers and stakeholders. Technology performance verifications are accomplished using measurement and analysis methods that have been reviewed and approved by independent expert stakeholder panels.

“Once we've verified a technology's performance, not only does the company who developed it benefit, but it gives potential purchasers of the technology some insurance about its worth as well,” said Stephen Piccot, Director of Southern Research's GHG Center.

Currently, the GHG Center is verifying commercial ready technologies in the following areas: Advanced Electricity Production, Solid Waste Management, Oil and Gas Production and Transmission, GHG Monitoring, Large Reciprocating Engines, Refrigeration, and Transportation. The GHG Center is planning performance assessments of clean electricity generation technologies including biomass fuels, transmission system improvements, improved fuel cell systems, industrial cogeneration and combustion systems, carbon sequestration and monitoring systems.

About Southern Research Institute

Southern Research Institute is an independent, not-for-profit center for scientific research with facilities in Birmingham, AL, Frederick, MD, and Research Triangle Park, NC. Southern Research provides contract research in the fields of engineering, chemical and biological defense, homeland security, environmental and energy-related research, and pre-clinical drug discovery and drug development. The Institute is affiliated with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB.)

Note Regarding Applicants for Technology Verification:

Companies interested in verification testing of their greenhouse gas technologies can download the Application for Testing at the GHG Center website (www.sri-rtp.com) and submit the form as instructed. For additional information, interested persons may contact Stephen Piccot (piccot@sri-rtp.com or 919-806-3456).

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