



American Ground Water Trust Executive Director to speak at June 16 ICWT Industry Meeting

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Andrew Stone, Executive Director of the American Ground Water Trust will be our guest speaker at the June 16, 2005 ICWT Industry Meeting. The topic will be "Growing competition for the world's fresh water: the challenge of educating citizens, communities and decision-makers in order to achieve science-based policy for sustainable water use."

Andrew Stone is a graduate of London University, England and for 12 years was a professor at Rhodes University, South Africa. He has extensive experience as a ground water scientist working on exploration and development projects in the U.S. and overseas. Prior to joining the Trust he worked as a hydrogeologist for a New England consulting company. From 1990 to 2003 he taught courses on Ground Water Protection Policy at Antioch, New England School of Graduate Studies. In 1999 he received the National Ground Water Association's Oliver Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the ground water industry. To learn more about the American Ground Water Trust visit

www.agwt.org

Workshop to offer help obtaining federal grants

\$2 billion in research and development funds discussed at May 25 event

A workshop to encourage private-sector product innovation will be held on Wednesday May 25, 2005 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at California State University, Fresno. The event (sponsored by the International Center for Water Technology (ICWT) at Fresno State) will bring in experts to teach attendees how to develop and submit a successful proposal and obtain their share of \$2 billion in federal research and development grants. Individual businesses may be awarded up to \$100,000 for exploring the feasibility of an idea and up to \$750,000 to expand on the results of initial feasibility studies.

"Each year, ten federal departments and agencies are required to reserve a portion of their budgets for grants to American businesses," according to ICWT director David Zoldoske. "Much of this funding has been awarded to companies in California but very little has been distributed here in the Central Valley. As part of our work on the

Regional Jobs Initiative, ICWT is sponsoring this important event so businesses in the Central Valley can learn how to apply for these grants and possibly receive funding that could help their businesses expand."

Businesses must meet the following eligibility criteria to participate in the program.

- For-profit, American-owned and independently operated
- Principal researcher employed by business
- Company size limited to 500 employees or less than \$50 million annual revenue

This program was created because the risk and expense of conducting research and development are often beyond the means of many businesses. This is an opportunity to obtain funds for the critical startup and development stages and to encourage the commercialization of the technology,

product, or service, which, in turn, stimulates the U.S. economy.

Awards are made based on:

- Business qualification,
- degree of innovation,
- technical merit,
- future market potential.

The conference will provide: overview of the program, proposal strategies, proposal draft, review and debriefing, and group critique.

A \$45 registration fee includes conference materials and lunch (the event is free to Regional Jobs Initiative cluster members.) Space is limited. Further event details can be found at www.icwt.net/SBIR, or by calling Laua at 559-278-2066.

The event is co-sponsored by the Central Valley Business Incubator, the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the University Business Center, and the Small Business Development Center.

Internship Program set to start May 23, 2005

The Careers in Manufacturing Technology program is ramping up for the 2005 Summer Internship program. Students and host companies are in the recruiting and selecting process. Nearly 35 students and 15 companies are expected to participate in the third annual summer program. As of May 2nd fourteen intern matches have been announced at seven different companies and a remaining eight companies are continuing to interview. In 2003, seven interns completed the program and in 2004, 12 of 13 students completed the program. The goal for 2005 is to place 20 students for summer. Students are selected by the

companies and receive a scholarship from the company for their time during the summer.

Students who are selected for the internships will also participate in the Training Academy. The Training Academy consists of five 4-hour sessions on various topics including employment basics, safety, shop math and measurement. As part of the program students also have an opportunity to tour each of the companies. If you have any questions, please call Fresno State's Economic Development Office at 559-294-6021.

Supervisor Training scheduled for May 26, 2005

The Careers in Manufacturing Technology Program is hosting a Supervisor Training workshop on May 26, 2005, from 8:00 am-12:30 pm. Two topics will be covered.

Sexual Harassment Prevention (8:00 am-10:00 am)

This training is now mandated for California Employers. Assembly Bill 1825 requires employers with 50 or more employees to provide two hours of interactive sexual harassment training to all supervisors every two years. FLG Consulting will provide the training. FLG has certified HR professionals with over 20 years of training and compliance experience. Don't miss this training. It will cover all regulation requirements in a fun and effective workshop.

Productivity (10:15 am-12:30pm)

This workshop will reinforce the concept that using time wisely and maintaining balance between work and home/leisure will make you a healthier, more consistently productive employee. This topic will be presented by The Leadership Laboratory.

This training is open to cluster participants and their supervisors. Seating is limited so call to reserve a spot for either or both programs. There will be a \$10 fee to attend either or both of the sessions. If you have any questions, please call Fresno State's Economic Development Office at 559-294-6021.

Career pathways

The Fresno County Workforce Investment Board (FCWIB) has developed 28 new career ladders for the following sectors: Healthcare, Construction and Trades, Agile Manufacturing, and Logistics. These career ladders display potential pathways for career growth opportunities that are related to each occupation.

The information included in the career ladders is:

- Occupations With Similar Skills
- Wages
- Job Outlook (work schedule, job description, work conditions, and growth projections)
- Education Requirements (education, training, experience, licensing or certification, physical demand, and special skills and abilities)

This tool will assist job seekers to select occupations and ensure informed customer choices. In addition, it will provide the employer with a qualified labor pool to assist with recruitment.

For more information call (559) 230-3600 or visit the website at www.workforce-connection.com.

Lab construction update



Phase I construction of The International Center for Water Technology is moving forward. After clearing and cleaning up the site for the new Hydraulic Research and Testing facility, the underground work has begun. Trenching work for the underground utilities, including electricity, is nearly complete.

The photo above shows the lab site on the southwest corner of Chestnut and Barstow. The Sprinkler Testing Lab is on the left and the Pump Testing Lab is on the right. The new Hydraulics Lab will be built directly in front of these buildings facing onto Barstow.

The new lab is one of two buildings that will house ICWT. Check the ICWT web site (www.icwt.net) to view the latest progress.

Industry News

Eurodrip U.S.A. moves to the Central Valley

Eurodrip U.S.A., a leading manufacturer of advanced subsurface irrigation drip tape, is moving to the Central Valley. The decision to close their manufacturing operation in San Diego and move to Madera, California was prompted in part by a desire to be closer to the markets Eurodrip U.S.A. serves.

General Manager Mike DeFrank said we are “looking forward to working and being part of the San Joaquin Valley. This is where the market is and we plan to be part of the progress and support the agricultural industry.” According to DeFrank by September, when the company expects to be in full production, the Eurodrip U.S.A. Madera facility will employ approximately 20-25 production personnel.

Eurodrip U.S.A. is a publicly traded company that began in Greece and has expanded manufacturing and marketing worldwide. Their products are widely used in the San Joaquin Valley and throughout the world on irrigation projects for food production. Eurodrip U.S.A. products are also used extensively in mining operations to leach and extract metals from ore bodies.

Quarterly update

March Meeting Wrap Up

Presentation by Eugene Carlson of CE Technical, Eugene Carlson, President of CE Technical and an independent consultant, made a presentation of new innovations in water flow control products through the use of a micro-controller. The micro-controller is a single integrated electrical device, that uses a program memory, a data memory, logical inputs and outputs, sensor inputs, very low power requirements and is extremely adaptable. This technology is currently used in cell phones, digital watches, voice recorders remote controls, and computer mice.

Presentation by Carsten Bethge of World Water & Power Corporation Carsten Bethge, VP of Sales for World Water & Power Corporation made a presentation on advances in solar power systems. Mr. Bethge discussed the many uses of water management using high yield solar pumping systems and how they work, which would reduce and stabilize energy, be cost effective and save energy. This solar method can be applied in agriculture, wineries, utilities distribution, water districts municipals and golf courses.

Workforce Connection Services, Pam Lassatter Pam Lassatter, Assistant Director with the Fresno County Workforce Investment Board (FCWIB) made a presentation with a handout on the Occupational Job Demand List,

Career Ladders, Client Readiness Report, Employment Skills Profile, Job Match Report and Marketing Materials of Hot Jobs in the Fresno County area.

Copies of the presentations and meeting minutes can be found at www.waterflowtech.com

Solar Conference Wrap Up

The first ever Fresno Solar Conference held on April 1, 2005 was a great success! Over 100 people attended the event held at California State University, Fresno. The International Center for Irrigation Technology and the Great Valley Center sponsored the event.

An impressive group of speakers were brought together to provide more information on installing and financing solar systems in the work place. Their presentations, along with additional information about upcoming events, are available at <http://www.greatvalley.org/solar/fresno.aspx>.

Matt Thompson of the Fresno Bee has an excellent Blog on the conference. This is available at http://www.fresnobeearchive.com/archives/solar_power_miniblog/index.html.

**To submit articles or for more information contact Laura at 559-278-2066
or by email at Iramos@csufresno.edu**

WATER CLUSTER MEETING

June 16, 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.