



# Public-Private Water Partnerships Formally Launched

## San Joaquin Valley Water Technology Cluster and California State University, Fresno team up to develop the International Center for Water Technology and unveil the Careers in Manufacturing Technology Program

A morning news conference and afternoon reception held at California State University, Fresno on October 15, 2002 marked the formal launch of exciting new water technology and economic development partnerships.

- 2) Workforce preparation – establishing the Careers in Manufacturing Technology Internship Program; and
- 3) Export development – partnering with the CALIFT Export Development Program.

### The San Joaquin Valley Water Technology Cluster

Claude Laval announced the formation of the San Joaquin Valley Water Technology Cluster at the October 15<sup>th</sup> morning news conference at Fresno State. Since their first meeting in April 2001, the cluster has worked to draw attention to the San Joaquin Valley as the focal point of the growing, global water technology industry.

The Cluster’s efforts have focused on three key areas:

- 1) Collaborative technological advances – partnering with Fresno State to establish The International Center for Water Technology;

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### The International Center for Water Technology

Dr. J. Michael Ortiz, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at Fresno State, unveiled plans for the International Center for Water Technology (ICWT), a \$60 million water research and development facility. The new center is a collaborative venture between Fresno State and the San Joaquin Valley Water Technology Cluster.

Among those appearing at the press conference were Rep. Cal Dooley and Rep. George Radanovich, who announced that the House Appropriations Committee has designated \$2 million for planning and early construction work for the center. The full House and Senate must approve the appropriation. The first phase of the facility will be completed in June 2003.

***President John D. Welty called the new center ‘an exciting project for the valley.’***

At an afternoon reception for water technology manufacturers, civic leaders and economic development officials,



Dr. David Zoldoske and Dr. J. Michael Ortiz field questions at the October 15, 2002 news conference. (Photo: Steve Olson)

President Welty said the university is pleased to be a partner in the center’s development. A team of university partners developed the ICWT business plan: the California Water Institute, the Center for Irrigation Technology, the Central California Futures Institute and the University Business Center.

ICWT will build on the successful model established between industry and the university 25 years ago when the Center for Irrigation Technology was created. Dr. John Welty, Fresno State president, appointed current CIT director Dr. David Zoldoske as the Interim Director of the new center.

### Careers in Manufacturing Technology Internship Program

The San Joaquin Valley Water Technology Cluster invites your participation in the launch of the first customized training

program designed specifically for the water technology manufacturing industry. The program is known as Careers in Manufacturing Technology (CIMT).

CIMT was created to support water technology manufacturing companies by increasing the number of qualified applicants in manufacturing positions and to provide students with real-world experiences in applied technology through work experience and internships. The Water Technology Cluster is working with the applied technology divisions at Fresno City and Reedley Colleges in the areas of manufacturing technology, welding/metal fabrication and computer aided manufacturing.

#### The CIMT Internship Program

The Internship Program is designed to give students exposure to their field of study in the water technology industry over the summer. In most cases, internships will last 2-4 months. During the internship, students are paid \$8.50 per hour by the company, and the school covers workers' compensation (student must be enrolled in classes). The first internship program will begin June 1, 2003.

In addition to the internship opportunity with your company, all CIMT summer interns will participate in the Water Technology Boot Camp. The Boot Camp will be a series of half-day workshops on topics important to the industry, such as learning about manufacturing flow processes, workplace safety practices, teamwork and diversity, and basic employment skills.

#### Work Experience Program

CIMT's Work Experience Program is designed to provide applied technology students with the benefit of part-time employment in a manufacturing environment while attending classes during the Fall and Spring semesters. This allows them to gain exposure to the industry.

"Work experience" positions can be in any job within your organization and do not

have to be associated with the students' coursework. The positions can be any length of time during the year.

**Why should you get involved?** The CIMT training programs will provide host companies with access to an established framework that allows Water Technology companies to compete with already established internship programs (GM, Caterpillar etc.). It also provides the key to recruiting skilled, motivated students willing and capable of making a professional contribution to your company. The Central California Futures Institute provides all administrative support for the internship



**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM  
& WORK EXPERIENCE  
2003**

and work experience program at no cost to participating companies.

**Host a student!** Please call Manjit Atwal today to receive your informational packet via email or mail. She can be reached at 559-278-8460 or [manjitm@csufresno.edu](mailto:manjitm@csufresno.edu).

#### **UPDATE: \$2M Federal earmark for the ICWT**

Through the efforts of Congressmen Thomas, Dooley, and Radanovich, \$2 million was earmarked for the initial development of the International Center for Water Technology through the VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies bill. The House subcommittee and full appropriations committee have approved the appropriation. It is now awaiting action by the House and Senate. Congress will reconvene in mid January and will continue the process of finalizing the remaining spending bills. The ICWT earmark will be determined at that time. We will keep you updated.

#### **UPDATE: CALIFT Export Development Program**

In October, CALIFT hosted an **international reception and technical conference** in New Orleans in conjunction with the Irrigation Association. Over 35 South American guests and irrigation representatives gathered to share common opportunities in the irrigation market at a reception hosted by CALIFT. In addition to an exceptional networking opportunity, the participants were treated to a presentation from Dr. David Zoldoske. In the presentation, "The Future of Irrigation Technology," David highlighted the need to consider the environment, water, and energy considerations in the future development of irrigation technology. He also presented details of the establishment of the International Center for Water Technology and reviewed progress on the CALIFT Export Development Program.

**January 23 – 26, 2003**, CALIFT will be exhibiting at the annual **ExpoAgro Sinaloa**, one of the largest agricultural trade shows in Mexico.

#### **Small Business Innovative Research workshop planned for water tech companies**

A one-day session on SBIR grants will be offered for water technology companies on December 6, 2002 at the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$75 for the full-day workshop, which includes lunch. To sign up or receive more information, contact Laura Ramos at [lramos@csufresno.edu](mailto:lramos@csufresno.edu).

Small Business Innovative Research grants are a government program that uses small business to meet federal research and development needs, increase private sector commercialization of government technology, and stimulate and foster scientific and

