



## New technologies improve crop water use efficiency

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The June 21 cluster meeting will highlight the development and commercialization of new technologies including a presentation by Craig Buxton and Michelle Frey who founded PureSense in June 2002. They will discuss current challenges in using water for crop performance and present information on new technologies that support best irrigation management practices. They will discuss how proper controls necessarily build on soil structure and composition data and employ continuous analysis of irrigation and soil moisture data. Effective technology needs to deliver decision support intelligence for all the critical steps in crop management. Key indicators and available measurement methods will be contrasted and best practices for effective irrigation management will be presented. Craig’s background includes senior level positions in investment banking, pharmaceuticals, financial services and telecommunications. Michelle Frey was VP at McGuire Environmental, Manager at Hagler Baily, Engineer at Black & Veatch, Assistant Director, Regulatory Affairs at the American Water Works Association. She earned her PhD in Environmental Engineering at University of Colorado.

## Inaugural International Water Technology Conference and Ozone V was a tremendous success

Presentations by more than 70 speakers, 54 exhibitors, and visitors from eight different countries combined to make the Inaugural International Water Technology Conference and Ozone V a tremendous success. The event took place April 2-4, 2007 at the SaveMart Center on the California State University, Fresno campus. The conference was hosted by the International Center for Water Technology (ICWT). Fresno State and the Environmental Protection Agency were partners.

“Our goal was to bring together researchers, industry professionals, and end-users - connecting water, science and technology - to highlight the evolving issues and solutions required to sustain both humankind and the environment,” said ICWT director David Zoldoske. “Several of the participants have asked when the next conference will be ” Tentative plans are for spring 2010.



Courtesy of [www.fresnostatenews.com](http://www.fresnostatenews.com)

The event featured several distinguished speakers including:

- Raul Arriaga - Former Undersecretary of Environmental Management for the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, for the government of Mexican president Vicente Fox
- Jim Hanlon - Director, Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) in the Office of Water US EPA
- Quentin T. Kelly - CEO, WorldWater & Power Corp
- Regarajan Ramesh - General Manager Global Technology, GE Infrastructure Water & ProcessTechnologies
- Andrew Stone - Executive Director, American Groundwater Trust

- Jennifer Turner - Director of the China Environment Forum at the Woodrow Wilson Center

Technical sessions on April 2-3 fell into three track areas: Water Supply & Reuse, Irrigation, Antimicrobial Ozone/ Agri-Foods. A list of presenters as well as copies of the presentations are available at [www.icwt.net](http://www.icwt.net).

On Wednesday, April 4, attendees took advantage of the full-day technical tours. The tours followed the three conference tracks and visited high-tech water treatment, food processing, irrigation and solar and facilities.

Please visit [www.icwt.net](http://www.icwt.net) for more information about the conference and the work being done at ICWT.

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## CIMT internship program preparing for summer 2007

The Careers in Manufacturing Technology (CIMT) Internship Program is preparing for summer 2007. Students are being interviewed by host companies and final selections should be made in the next two weeks.

Forty-six students from Fresno City College and Reedley College submitted applications, and 13 companies are interviewing the students. The goal for 2007 is to place 15 student interns this summer. Students are selected by the companies and are paid an hourly rate by the company.

Students who are selected for the internships will also participate in the Training Academy. The Training

Academy consists of five, four-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. The CIMT Internship Program has resulted in many interns being offered full time positions.

If your company would like to participate in the internship program or host a Training Academy session, please contact Kathe McCall at 559-250-1759 or email her at [kathem@csufresno.edu](mailto:kathem@csufresno.edu).

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## ICWT participates on June 21 Energy & Clean Air Expo



Join the International Center for Water Technology at the Energy & Clean Air Business Exposition on June 21, from 12 – 7 pm at the Fresno Convention Center.

The luncheon keynote speaker will be Linda Adams, the secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency. Mayor Alan Autry, and Bill Jones are also on the program.

Please visit our booth and find out about all the projects we are working on that will help clean the air as well as reduce our dependency on electricity.

For more information on the Expo please visit [www.valley-can.org](http://www.valley-can.org).

## Sexual harassment training offered on June 14

The Workforce Committee of the Water, Manufacturing and Food Processing Cluster is hosting a Sexual Harassment Prevention training seminar as part of the ongoing supervisor training program. The program will be held on June 14 from 8:15 am to 10:15 am at University Business Center at Fresno State.

Sexual harassment prevention 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 human resources 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.

This training is open to all RJI cluster participants and their supervisors at no charge. Seating is limited so call to reserve a spot. If you have any questions or to register, please call Fresno State's Office of Community and Economic Development at (559) 294-6021.

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**To submit articles contact Laura Ramos at 559-278-2066  
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## Industry News

### Jain Irrigation announces acquisition of Aquarius Brands, Inc.

Jain Irrigation Systems Limited, a world leader in low-volume and sprinkler irrigation systems, announced that it has agreed to acquire 100% control in Aquarius Brands, Inc. from Habasit Holding USA Inc. With this acquisition, Jain Irrigation becomes the second largest low-volume irrigation company in the world. Jain Irrigation is a diversified company with more than 3,800 employees and market capitalization in excess of 600 million. The product portfolio encompasses irrigation products, piping products, plastic sheets, dehydrated foods, fruit puree and juice concentrates. Jain Irrigation has pioneered drip irrigation for small farmers in India and has the major market share in one of the fastest growing irrigation markets in the world. Jain Irrigation had acquired Chapin Watermatics, a leading manufacturer of drip tape located in Watertown, New York in May 2006.

Aquarius Brands, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of low-volume irrigation systems for agriculture, landscape and nursery applications; the brands include Agricultural Products (API), PEPCO, and Acu-Drip. The company has been providing fittings, filters, air vents, tubing, emitters and accessories to the irrigation industry for over 35 years. Branded products include Spin Clean filters, Tape Loc, Spin Loc and Power Loc fittings, Softube and Flatube, Micro-Flapper, Quadra-Bubbler and Octa-Bubbler, among many others. The company operates manufacturing facilities in Ontario and Fresno, California and Winter Haven, Florida and it has a network of more than 1000 dealers for product distribution. Managing Director of Jain Irrigation, Anil Jain said after closing the deal, "With this acquisition we have a firm foothold in one of the largest markets for the irrigation business and access to the latest technology for irrigation components." He further added that "Jain Irrigation will now focus on the synergies of its operations in India and the USA, to offer the most diverse but integrated products and services in the irrigation business to customers all over the world."

According to Dave Abrams, President of Aquarius Brands, "Jain's products are a perfect fit for our company. The combination of Chapin's Tape, Jain's low cost manufacturing capabilities and diverse product selection, Aquarius Brand's broad product line and wide distribution network, is indeed very powerful. We will now be able to offer virtually every type of product a grower or landscape contractor needs for a drip irrigation system. Our customers have been asking for many of the products that Jain will bring to the table, and the ability to provide a complete, high quality package from one source will enable our customers to lower their costs and grow their business."

This acquisition will be made through Jain Irrigation Inc, USA, a wholly owned subsidiary of Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd. Closing of the transaction will take place immediately. To learn more about Aquarius Brands, API, Pepco, and Acu-Drip visit [www.aquariusbrands.com](http://www.aquariusbrands.com). To learn more about Jain Irrigation and Chapin Watermatics visit [www.jains.com](http://www.jains.com).

## Export assistance program can benefit you and your customers

The long term goal of the ICWT Export Development program is to assist U.S.-based companies in international markets. ICWT will help develop and implement a self-sustaining export plan to sell products outside the United States. Chile and Mexico are the first two target countries.

This export support program provides participants with:

- Assistance in developing an export business plan
- Support in implementing the export business plan
- Increased international exposure for your company
- Financial support to attend international trade shows

This program provides your company an outstanding business opportunity to break into or expand into the export market. Export seminars, market research, one-on-one consulting and financial support to attend international trade show are available.

Getting involved is easy. Go to the program web site and sign up [www.icwt.net/export](http://www.icwt.net/export) (financial support to attend international trade shows is based on a first come first served basis). Don't miss out – sign up now!

Please feel free to contact Dan Clawson at [dclawson@csufresno.edu](mailto:dclawson@csufresno.edu) or 559-278-2066 if you have any questions.

## March meeting wrap up

**Presentation by Jim Tischer** covered the California water-energy scene with a focus on the San Joaquin Valley. The key points were: The role renewable energy will have in supplying the 3500 megawatts needed by 2025; energy efficiency and renewable energy provide long-term business development opportunities for companies prepared to meet the need; expanding energy efficiency and renewable energy provides excellent long-term employment opportunities for individuals prepared to embrace the new technology. Large scale renewable energy adoption provides excellent value-added for ratepayers and voters.

**Presentation by Leon Woods** covered incentives provided for solar projects through the California Solar Initiative (CSI) that began on January 1, 2007. Woods explained recently passed "historic" legislation (Assembly Bill 32) that made California the first state to create a mandatory green-house gas reduction emissions program. The major focus of the presentation was to provide the "nuts and bolts" of solar technology and to illustrate the benefits it can bring to farmers, water districts and agri-business.

Both presentations can be found at [www.icwt.net](http://www.icwt.net).

## WATER CLUSTER MEETING

**June 21, 2007  
9 – 11 A.M.**

*Smittcamp House at Fresno State  
2625 E. Matoian Way  
Fresno, CA 93740*

**Please RSVP to [iramos@csufresno.edu](mailto:iramos@csufresno.edu)  
or (559)278-2066**

### From The North

- Take Hwy 99 South
- Take the CA-180 Exit Kings Canyon / Mendota / Airport
- Merge onto CA-180 E Left toward Kings Canyon / Airport
- Merge onto CA-168 toward Clovis / Huntington Lake.
- Take the Shaw exit
- Merge onto E Shaw Ave
- Make a Right on Maple Ave
- Left on Matoian Way- Smittcamp Alumni House will be on your right

### From The South

- Take Hwy 99 North
- Merge onto CA-41 N toward Yosemite
- Merge onto CA-180 E toward Kings Canyon
- Merge Onto Ca-168 E via Exit 60A toward Clovis / Huntington Lake
- Take the Shaw Ave exit.
- Merge onto E Shaw Ave
- Make a right on Maple Ave
- Left on Matoian Way- Smittcamp Alumni House will be on your right