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The TecEco Newsletter

Keeping you informed about the TecEco project on alternative cements and building technologies. Issue 4, 18th November, 1999

Accomplishments in the Last Few Weeks

There has been a gap of a few weeks from the first rash of TecEco newsletters. Sorry folks – I have been busy.

I appreciate all the help and enthusiasm from our supporters and firmly believe that if we can keep it up we will bring about a change to the world that will benefit all.

What We Have Been Doing

- Incorporation of TecEco Pty. Ltd.
- Visit to CSIRO Melbourne
- Visit to Australian Bulk Minerals (ABM).
- Discussions with Pasminco continuing.
- Continuing discussions with Victorian Power Stations
- Promising XRD results from the lab
- Contact made with Green Funds

Priorities For The Next Few Weeks

- Writing a business plan for TecEco
- Initiating a conditional R & D Grant application
- Making contact with more green funds
- Trying to raise initial shareholdings
- Trying to obtain a research brief based on the new cement from customers
- Time series XRD analysis of our best formulations.
- Electron micro probe analysis of some of our best formulations.

What We Have Been Doing

Visit to the CSIRO Melbourne

What a great bunch of guys they are. I enjoyed immensely talking to Dr Swee Mak and Dr Sagoe Crentsil of the CSIRO and sharing with them their enthusiasm for science. I have a draft proposal from the CSIRO to do more work and look forward to collaborating with them when we raise the funds to continue.

Visit to the ABM Burnie

I spent some time with John Galbraith from Australian Bulk Minerals Pty. Ltd. and brought back

a sample of some newly ground and hence highly reactive Tasmanian magnesia. Not exactly off a production line but I daresay some of the first produced by the company and if I am right the start of much more.

Discussions with Pasminco Continuing

I appreciated the time John Webber from Pasminco Limited gave me when he came to my home to view some of the samples we have produced. I am still discussing how we fit into the agenda Pasminco have for toxic waste immobilisation and am excited about the huge potential of magnesium cements for this.

Victorian Power Stations

The Victorian power stations have a huge vested interest in finding a use for their fly ash and we can help with this and with carbon taxes in the future.

I have been talking a lot to Richard Elkington from Loy Yang in particular and he has been most helpful. We are of the view that collectively the Victorian power industry can achieve more than alone and are working towards initiating a research project to elaborate a bulk use of fly ash such as road making.

Promising XRD Results

We have initiated some further research and can only say that the results look very promising.

Priorities for the next few weeks

The Business Plan

I am flat out writing the new business plan for TecEco Pty Ltd. and it will be about the serious business of raising capital to undertake research and initiate what should be a very rapid growth for the company.

As Rudyard Kipling put it:

“Six true and faithful friends have I; What, Where, How, When, Who and Why.”

One idea I am working with is the need to seek significant capital commensurate with the huge size of the markets we wish to take a share of and the usp's (unique selling points) we have. Indeed I think it may be detrimental to proceed undercapitalised. It is much easier to raise \$ 5,000,000 than \$ 250,000 as venture capitalist and other institutions will take you more seriously. In the US and elsewhere high tech high growth startups such as ours often bypass the "seed" stage and proceed more directly and apart from a lack of lateral thinking there is no reason why this could not occur here.

Any comment from interested parties?

Initiation of an R & D Grant Application

I am convinced that it would be beneficial to our efforts to raise funds and as soon as I can get the forms will be initiating an application.

The application will be based on some research being undertaken on a contract basis at the CSIRO and the rest in Hobart.

Contact With Green Funds

It appears as though a new type of "green" fund is emerging in Europe and elsewhere and this is a fund specifically set up to look after the carbon tax problems of the power generation and other industries likely to be heavily hit.

I suspect that what will happen is that a total package service will be supplied including assistance with the complex legal and accounting issues starting to emerge.

We are in the rather unique position of having two technologies that fit neatly with what ought to be the objective of these new funds and should any reader have any contact details we would appreciate them communicating same to us. We need their money for research and I am sure they need our technology, which is definitely superior to the lime fly ash blends used for making bricks etc

Research Brief's

There is tremendous potential with the new cements and already uses are emerging that directly benefit end users. It is hoped to obtain research briefs for specific applications such as toxic waste immobilisation and through doing these jobs learn more about the cements.



Just in case I do not have time to write another newsletter – merry Christmas to you all and a prosperous new millenium.

John Harrison.