

Petro-King sets up hi-tech global centre in Adelaide

VALERINA CHANGARATHIL

MAJOR Chinese oilfield technology provider Petro-King has ramped up its presence in the Australian market by establishing a global centre in Adelaide with plans to expand its local workforce.

Petro-King is listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange with technology hubs in Singapore, a presence in multiple countries and close to 1000 employees.

The Australian entity, which employs 10 staff (mostly engineers) in Adelaide, has set up a Global Centre of Well Performance Technology to offer oil and gas well products and services to energy companies in Australia.

Petro-King Australia has also launched a recruitment process to hire up to 24 operational crew members to support the arrival of a key product in July.

The Quantum system works as a "vacuum cleaner" for blocked wells to increase production, Petro-King's country manager James Tauchnitz said.

"Globally we are getting out only 40 per cent of the hydrocarbons - 60 per cent is left behind in the wells.

"It's a difficult science but we are bringing in technologies to help companies going back to older wells in the current low oil price environment," he said.

"This system can be installed in a well quickly and easily to optimise production. It can be assembled on location in less than six hours and some wells can be cleaned out in one day."

The company has already begun working with major South Australian companies in this space and will be a contractor on sites to help companies optimise production, supplying equipment and staff to operate it.

"We are really positioning to see ourselves operating on every major oil and gas frontier



SOLUTIONS: Petro-King country manager James Tauchnitz in his King William St office.

Picture: STEPHEN LAFFER

There is positive sentiment in the market

in Australia in the next five years," Mr Tauchnitz said.

He expects higher demand for the Quantum system and other downhole tools will eventually lead to hiring more employees.

The office on King William Street and the centre, established in February, serves as its headquarters for Australian, PNG and NZ.

"Because we offer just production enhancement (and not all of our international services), we have seen a healthier, welcoming response to industry."

Mr Tauchnitz, who has worked with Arrow Energy, APLNG and BHP Billiton, said Petro-King Australia wanted to understand operator challenges to find customisable solutions.

While the going had been tough in the current lower oil price environment, the company had chosen to "swim instead of sinking", he said.

"There is positive sentiment in the market. There may not be cash, but there is a sense to invest in technology for the future."

The Adelaide centre aims to undertake research based on clients' biggest challenges and

has designed a few innovative solutions.

Worldwide Petro-King works with international companies Sinopec, PetroChina, CNOOC, Shell, BP, Rosneft, ConocoPhillips.

Petro-King provides primary oilfield services such as technical consultation, project management, well drilling, completions, production enhancement and well testing.

Archer seeks graphite partner

VALERINA CHANGARATHIL

ARCHER Exploration is seeking joint venture partners to fund its \$36 million Campoona Shaft graphite mine on the Eyre Peninsula.

A mining lease application for the 12-year operation, which includes processing 140,000 tonnes of ore a year into 10,700 tonnes of high-grade graphite concentrate, will be lodged next month.

The total cost of mining and upgrading the concentrate is likely to come in at \$1600 a tonne with Archer estimating revenue of \$US2500 a tonne for its 15-28 micron product with a purity range of between 98.5 and 99.7 per cent.

Cost estimates of the operation were included in an investor presentation released yesterday to the Australian Securities Exchange.

Graphene is a one atom-thick carbon form which is very strong, light and a good conductor of heat and elec-

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GERARD ANDERSON

tricity, leading to its use in hi-tech products such as batteries, screen displays, solar cells and integrated circuits.

Archer Exploration managing director Gerard Anderson said final numbers would be released as part of a project scoping study also expected to be completed next month.

"These numbers are indicative and we are hoping to start with a modest size operation," he told *The Advertiser* on the sidelines of investor presentations in Melbourne.

The company has been looking for a partner for the project since November 2013 and was previously tipped to start production this year.

An updated timeline puts the earliest start of mining as the first quarter of next year.

Archer intends to focus on Campoona Shaft, north of Cleve, and processing the ore at Sugarloaf.

New solar tech boost for SA

JOSEPHINE LIM

SOUTH Australian companies are looking to bring in a new form of solar technology for residential homes and potentially manufacture the equipment in Adelaide.

United Energy Solutions managing director Darren Andary said they were in early stages of discussion with Melbourne-based firm Technique Solar, which had sold 70 out of the first 110 units of Technique Solar Modules (TSMs) to residential homes in Victoria.



TALKS: United Energy Solutions director Darren Andary.

The modules generate both electrical and heat energy and store energy in an attached hot water tank.

"TSMs have a realistic return on investment and a healthy spot in the renewable sector," Mr Andary said.

"It ticks all the right boxes as the right product."

He said the modules provided households with a competitive price base for both energy creation and storage.

Technique Solar director John Keating said the system was comparable to a high quality 4kW PV panel system and offered a competitive pricing for residential homes at \$15,000 upfront and 13c/kWh.

He said the modules, made in China, would be shipped directly to SA by the end of this year if the deal went ahead.

Joining forces for housing

ALEXANDRA ECONOMOU

SOUTH Australian not-for-profit organisation Common Ground Adelaide has helped secure its local expansion plans through a new national partnership.

Common Ground has joined forces with Melbourne-based Housing Choices Australia, one of Australia's largest affordable housing providers.

Common Ground Adelaide chairman Colin Goodall said the board had spent the past two years planning ways to se-



PLANS: Common Ground Adelaide chief executive Maria Palumbo

cure the future of CGA's local operations.

CGA was established in 2006 by the Rann government, aided by business and community leaders. It also received \$3 million from Santos to help establish its SA operations.

CGA now provides housing for around 220 people: men, women and children, many of whom would otherwise be sleeping rough.

Common Ground operates in different states and territories, as well as regional areas.

CGA now has an office in Port Augusta, in the state's North.

"This has been an intense process involving extensive discussion and evaluation as we remain committed to upholding the Common Ground vision," Mr Goodall said.