

Tulsa company bringing new technology to gas turbine market

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By Heather Caliendo
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TULSA – David Voeller said his job is to find fresh ideas and turn them into businesses.

“I and some investors found some really cool ideas and we purchased the technology from a company called Everest Sciences Inc.,” said Voeller, president and CEO of Everest Sciences Corp. “We have the financial backing and we are now bringing this thing to the market.”

Everest Sciences is bringing its patented technology of indirect evaporative inlet cooling to the gas turbine market. Its technology allows gas turbines to produce more power at a lower heat rate. One of the prime markets for the technology is gas turbine power plants.

While there are other companies that build evaporative coolers and refrigerated systems for gas turbines, they use different technology. Voeller said he doesn’t see any competition with the Everest Science product.

“We do this in a way that is better than in ways it was up ‘til now,” Voeller said. “Before it was done in two principal ways – direct evaporation like a swamp cooler or a big air conditioning and refrigeration system.” Marcus Bastianen, director of sales and marketing, said the industry had the same traditional techniques for some time, and believes Everest Sciences is providing an innovative technology.

“Our cycle, the way we designed this product, we are able to accomplish the same type of cooling but doing it without drawing that much power at all,” he said. “If you can make a turbine run more efficiently it’s less CO2 gas which is better for the environment as well.”

Voeller is a veteran of the aerospace industry and spent 17 years working in the aircraft engine department of General Electric. He dabbled in the small business arena and became president and CEO of SafeWorks LLC before selling it to a private equity firm in 2006.

In 2007 he was introduced to Everest Sciences and was taken by their concept that had been developing slowly over the past 10 years. He, along with 15 investors, saw a business prospect.

“We saw a really interesting technology that was really poised to be the right technology at the right time,” he said. “How we use our energy, and given its cost and the concern of CO2, it seemed like a great time for the product.”

Voeller lives in Seattle; the investors are scattered throughout the country. When Voeller and the investors acquired Everest Sciences, the company had headquarters in California. After evaluating different areas, they chose to transfer its headquarters to Tulsa due to the central location.

“It’s got a great talent base,” he said. “Cost is reasonable there where other places that might have similar talent have cost going through the roof.”

Two Everest Sciences installations have been operating since early 2007. One is at a food products manufacturing plant in California; the other is at a plant in Canada.

Though two units have been installed, Voeller said the technology will be fully available for customer delivery in November. In three to five years, he said the company will deliver 100 per year.

“The goals of the company are to create a well-known brand name in the industry, and provide a product that provides a great return of investment to our customers,” he said. “Once we establish ourselves in North America we will take the product global.”

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