

Welcome to Our Buyers Guide

Welcome to the First Annual *Radwaste Solutions* Buyers Guide, a directory of products, materials, and services that relate directly to the business of radioactive waste management and site cleanup and remediation. In this directory, we list more than 800 companies in more than 300 categories, in an easy-to-use format that will help you put your finger on anything you need to make your work more productive.

This issue also contains a few of the usual features you have come to count on as you peruse each issue of *Radwaste Solutions*. "Headlines," a quick wrapup of industry news, appears on page 8, and "Word for Word," which features brief quotes from recent editorials and commentaries taken from major newspapers and syndicates (among them, in this issue, the *New York Times*), can be found on page 13. "Calendar" is still here, on page 104, to help you plan your travel schedule. And we have one feature-length article, a meeting report from the 2005 Decommissioning, Decontamination and Reutilization Topical Meeting, held in Denver this past August. That meeting report, "D&D Around the World," focuses solely on the many international presentations made at that conference. A second report, on domestic programs and projects discussed at the meeting, will appear in the January/February 2006 issue of the magazine. The cumulative index of articles from all previous *Radwaste* issues, which usually appears in the back of the November/December issue, will be bumped to January/February as well.

One thing that has been fascinating to me as I've worked on this maga-

zine over the past several years has been the cross-fertilization of technologies with other industries. The magazine has run several articles on inventive uses of technologies from other fields in cleanup work. For example, a few years ago we ran an article about using technology from the aviation industry to offload contaminated waste from upper stories of a building (see "Now Appearing at an Airport Near You: Adapting Aviation Ground Support Equipment for Removing Nuclear Waste at Rocky Flats," Jan./Feb. 2004, p. 42). A few months later, we reported on using spray polyurea coating to enable large components to be shipped to disposal in one piece (saving workers the dose they might receive from size-reducing the components) (see "Wrapping Up a Waste Problem: Innovative Use of Polyurea Coating at Rocky Flats Reduces Risk, Saves Money," May/June 2004, p. 40).

But technology sharing isn't just a one-way street, with the radwaste community doing all the borrowing from other industries. In this issue, in the "Headlines" section (p. 8), we have an item about how radwaste disposal bags were used by the Army Corps of Engineers to fill the breached levees in hurricane-ravaged New Orleans. Indeed, a representative from one of the companies that supplied the bags told me that this experience has the company thinking that this might be a whole new market for them, one they had never considered before.

The inventors of new technologies and the companies that supply them may feel that they know exactly how their products are going to be used,



The Wonderful World of Technology Sharing

but human beings are adaptive creatures, and we are quickly learning that what works well for one job in one industry might be adaptable to another. This Buyers Guide lists items that we know are used in the radwaste industry. And if, someday, they are useful in another field, it's just another example of the great world of technology sharing.—Nancy J. Zacha, Editor