

Press Release

For Immediate Release: March 15, 2005

PTAC Report Recommends Best Practices Approach to Deploy Environmental Technologies in the Oil & Gas Industry

Calgary, AB – PTAC Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada released the pivotal *Barriers to Deployment of Environmental Technologies* report today which proposes ways and means to overcome barriers preventing upstream oil and gas companies from investing in emission-reducing and other environmental technologies.

Eric Lloyd, PTAC President, says “the oil patch could save \$1 billion every year by introducing up-to-the-minute technologies for reducing greenhouse gases, which have the happy side effect of slashing energy bills and the amount of wasted reserves.” In a recent interview with the *Globe and Mail*, Lloyd encouraged industry to begin viewing environmental technologies not as a cost, but as an economic opportunity. Such technologies would reduce pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and lower production costs.

PTAC’s *Barriers* final project report recommends a series of improvements aimed directly at increasing the implementation of best practice environmental technologies in upstream oil and gas. A best practices approach is suggested in order to encourage deployment of environmental technologies without invoking an unduly onerous regulatory or enforcement regime. The recommendations are essentially a series of enablers that will see best practice technologies not only developed and demonstrated, but validated, deployed, shared and monitored, with the resulting “good news” better communicated.

The report suggests greater government tax incentives to promote environmental innovation and direct funding support, particularly during the demonstration phase of technology commercialization, to move innovative technologies toward deployment. It recommends a one-window approach to access funding as well as a database for best practice environmental technology. Canada’s level of deployment of environmental technologies is seen as generally lower than in other countries, with industry and policymakers alike playing a waiting game. Oil and gas producers have expressed the need to better discern the wheat (best practice technologies) from the chaff (all the environmental technologies marketed to them). Finally, the report recommends regulatory alignment with deployment of best practice technologies and improved communication of progress being made by the oil and gas industry.

More than 200 industry and government representatives participated in the *Barriers* project, through a web-posted questionnaire, workshop attendance, interviews, and interim reviews.

Barriers is the result of a project launched by PTAC’s Technology for Emission Reduction and Eco-Efficiency (TEREE) committee in cooperation with PTAC and hydrocarbon energy stakeholders to develop and implement sustainable, eco-efficient and economical GHG reducing technologies.

Western Economic Diversification Canada, Alberta Economic Development, the Alberta Energy Research Institute (AERI), Alberta Environment, CETAC-West, Climate Change Central, Environment Canada and Industry Canada provided funding for this project. The report in full is available on PTAC’s website at: <http://www.ptac.org/eet/dl/eetreport0401.pdf>. More information about the TEREE initiative can be viewed at <http://www.ptac.org/techeetteree.html>.

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PTAC was established as a non-profit organization in 1996 with a mission to facilitate innovation, technology transfer and collaborative research, development, demonstration and deployment of technologies for the responsible development of Western Canada’s upstream hydrocarbon energy industry.