

Bill Powers

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Four Winners Announced at \$100,000 Shale Gas Innovation Contest Finals Event

PITTSBURGH, PA –On May 12th in Southpointe, PA during the 4th Annual Shale Gas Innovation Contest in front of nearly 150 attendees the following four companies each walked away with a winner’s check for \$25,000:

- **Appalachian Drilling Services, Inc.** – Provides spill proof, skid mounted, rig friendly waste storage units specifically built to withstand life on drilling rigs and mitigate the chances of any type of spill
- **EthosGen** - Offering systems that convert waste heat to electricity through a unique piston-based Organic-Rankine Cycle (ORC) scalable power solution available from 12-250kW
- **Fairmont Brine Processing** - Evaporation and crystallization process that fully treats wastewater, extracting reusable byproducts; and the ability to also formulate fracture stimulation fluids specifically to meet an operating company’s completion design
- **PixController, Inc.** – Offering a low cost methane gas detection system that integrates a digital methane sensor with temperature and barometric pressure data, providing data access via a low power battery operated wireless monitoring backbone, and ability to integrate optical or FLIR camera technology, full weather station, and water quality monitoring to system

The entire list of the 14 Finalists with technology descriptions can be found at: <http://www.sgicc.org/2015-shale-gas-innovation-contest.html>.

Bill Hall, SGICC Director noted, “The 14 finalists once again show the diversity of ideas being brought to the table by entrepreneurs and small companies in the region to help advance the shale energy play.”

Bill Powers, President/ CEO of Pix Controllers commented, “We were thrilled and honored to be selected as a winner in this year’s competition. The SGICC has been instrumental in accelerating the development of our gas monitoring products. Without the support and guidance of the SGICC and Ben Franklin we might have missed our window of opportunity to present our solution to the shale gas industry. Entrepreneurs are fortunate to have these organizations in the state of Pennsylvania!”



Pix Controllers accepts Winner’s Check. Pictured from left are Bill Hall, SGICC Director, Bill Powers, PIX President and CEO and Jennifer Leinbach, PA DCED Office of Technology & Innovation

James Abrams, EthosGen Founder noted, “EthosGen is honored to be chosen as a winner of the 2015 Ben Franklin Technology Partners Shale Gas Innovation Contest. The SGICC provided our company the platform to introduce our waste heat to electricity system to best of breed industry leaders.”



EthosGen accepts Winner’s Check. Pictured from left are Bill Hall, SGICC Director, James Abrams, EthosGen Founder, and Jennifer Leinbach, PA DCED Office of Technology & Innovation

Seth Martin, President/ CEO of Appalachian Drilling Services noted, “We were honored to be selected as a finalist in the 2015 Shale Gas Innovation Contest and being chosen as one of the four winners in a very competitive field validates that our services resonate with our customers and truly do provide significant operational efficiencies while minimizing their exposure to environmental risk and impact.”



Appalachian Drilling Services accepts Winner’s Check. Pictured from left are Bill Hall, SGICC Director, Seth Martin, President & CEO, and Trent Muthler, VP Sales of ADS, and Jennifer Leinbach, PA DCED Office of Tech & Innovation

This year the contest once again also included a winner from the state of West Virginia thanks to a grant provided to the SGICC from the Benedum Foundation. That winner was Fairmont Brine Processing. Brian Kalt, General Manager commented, “We are humbled to be recognized by the Shale Gas Innovation & Commercialization Center. Winning this award validates the industry’s necessity for an environmentally responsible alternative to deep well injection. Fairmont Brine Processing has executed another major step in the commercialization of our patented evaporation & crystallization process, and we are looking forward to developing new opportunities with E&P companies as they seek a long term solution for the wastewater produced in the natural resource extraction process.”



Fairmont Brine Processing accepts Winner’s Check. Pictured from left are Brian Kalt, General Manager of FBP, and Carl Irwin of the WV TransTech Energy Research & Business Development Program

Contest Sponsors also praised the event. “EQT is always searching for new technologies to improve our operations,” said Karl Coke, Senior Vice President of Innovation at EQT Production, a sponsor of the contest. “The process used by SGICC to uncover innovative products and services is a valuable asset to the industry.”

Michael Makowski, Manager of New Technology Initiatives at PPG Industries, a sponsor company and judge noted, “This event always uncovers creative new technologies that can positively impact the oil and gas industry. As a

technology scout there is no better opportunity to see high caliber innovations on display at a single event focused on adding value to this important growth area.”

The sponsors for this year’s contest were: Ben Franklin Technology Partners (<http://www.benfranklin.org>), AquaTech (www.aquatech.com), Chevron Technology Ventures (<http://www.chevron.com/ctv/ctvi/>), CONSOL Energy (www.consolenergy.com), EQT (www.eqt.com), First National Bank (www.fnb-online.com), GE Oil & Gas (<http://www.ge-energy.com>), INABATA America Corporation (<http://us.inabata.com/>), Little Pine Resources (<http://littlepineresources.com>), the Marcellus Shale Coalition (<http://marcelluscoalition.org>), PPG Industries (<http://corporate.ppg.com/>), Praxair (www.praxair.com), Range Resources (<http://www.rangeresources.com/>), Shell (<http://www.shell.com/>), Steptoe & Johnson PLLC (<http://www.step-toe-johnson.com/>), Williams (www.williamsinthenortheast.com), and XTO Energy (<http://www.xtoenergy.com/>).

About the SGICC



The Ben Franklin Shale Gas Innovation and Commercialization Center (www.sgicc.org) supports and commercializes early-stage technologies that enhance responsible stewardship of the environment while properly utilizing this energy asset.

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