



ECTC Releases Distributor Update – Volume 2, Issue 1

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For Immediate Release

Western Excelsior is committed to continuously improving the support of its distributor network by providing industry news and information as it becomes available. Visit WESTERNEXCELSIOR.COM to stay connected to the RECP industry.

The Erosion Control Technology Council (ECTC) is a non-profit organization comprised of Rolled Erosion Control Product (RECP) manufacturers, distributors, parent material producers, testing and academic agencies. ECTC's mission is to develop standardized testing and specification systems, liaison with federal, state and local government entities and to present an unbiased presentation of the RECP industry. ECTC also endeavors to provide unbiased information regarding RECP projects, installation and use. To that end, the ECTC publishes periodic updates specifically intended for distributors of RECPs and erosion control materials.

The following update is the latest release from ECTC. This edition provides an update on ECTC activities for the past few months. These activities include development of a new website and including new technology groups within the council.

Western Excelsior – Engineered Environmental Stewardship by

“Blanketing Nature with Nature”

ECTC UNVEILS REDESIGNED WEBSITE

The Erosion Control Technology Council (ECTC) redesigned its website to be a user-friendly tool for ECTC members, engineers, designers, contractors, government agencies and other professionals in the industry.

Calendar of Events; Membership; Resources; Documents & Tools; and a completely re-vamped, easier-to-use Product Selection & Design Tool.

Industry professionals eager to learn more about ECTC and RECPs are encouraged to click on the "About" link within the new site. This link takes users to a complete history of the council as well as an extensive background on the importance of RECPs and their uses. Keeping professionals abreast of industry happenings, the calendar section includes both ECTC and other industry events.

The Resources section provides case studies, useful links to other industry-related information, and details about educational courses offered by ECTC. Documents & Tools includes terminology; a searchable, extensive collection of documents; and up-to-date industry

specifications.

With this new ECTC website, designers and contractors now have access to a tool designed to assist in solving erosion control problems – the Product Selection & Design Tool. Designers and contractors can select the relevant product selection tool, either slope or channel, and then proceed to enter application parameters leading to a list of products that may be suitable for a project design, including links to manufacturers who provide the products listed. A Slope Design Assistant and a Channel Design Assistant are available if the user needs additional help using the Product Selection & Design Tool.

For further information about ECTC, contact Laurie Honnigford at +1-651-554-1895, e-mail laurie@ectc.org, or visit www.ectc.org.



The new site, found at www.ectc.org, features sections including: About ECTC and Rolled Erosion Control Products (RECPs);

ECTC PLANS EXPLORATORY MEETING

ECTC has received numerous requests from other product manufacturers to expand the scope of material types covered by ECTC. ECTC has specifically heard from sediment retention device and hydraulically applied product manufacturers.

The paper abstract on page 2 of this newsletter will be presented

on Wednesday Feb. 22, 2006. On Thursday Feb. 23, 2006 ECTC will hold an informal meeting for those interested in learning more about ECTC and the proposed membership expansion. ECTC wants to gauge the level of interest from other product manufacturers in partnering with other technologies

and expanding the scope of erosion and sediment products covered by ECTC.

For more information about the meeting being planned for 2006, contact Laurie Honnigford at +1-651-554-1895. Visit www.ectc.org for up-to-date happenings within ECTC.



ECTC: 14 YEARS OF GUIDING AND GROWING THE RECP INDUSTRY

Synopsis of paper written by Tim Lancaster, North American Green, Inc., and Mark Myrowich, ErosionControlBlanket.com. This paper will be presented at EC06 on Wednesday Feb. 22, 2006.

Rolled erosion control products (RECPs) were first used in the form of jute mats imported from Asia back in the mid 1950s, but have quickly evolved to include a wide variety of temporary degradable open weave textiles and erosion control blankets, as well as permanent turf reinforcement mats.

As the use of RECPs began to escalate in the early 1990s with the advent of the U.S. EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the increased awareness of the environmental impacts of soil erosion and sedimentation, so did the need for standardization of a blossoming RECP industry. At that time, several progressive RECP manufacturers realized the industry's need for standard testing protocol, proper design specifications and installation uniformity for RECPs. In July 1992 they formed the Erosion Control Technology Council (ECTC) and set out to create these standards and promote the continued growth of the industry through education and leadership.

Accomplishments

Over the past 14 years the

ECTC has accomplished many initiatives and goals toward securing our organization's mission. The following are highlights of ECTC's accomplishments.

- 1) Standard Terminology for RECPs.
- 2) Product categorization of RECPs into two broad categories, Temporary Degradables and Long-Term Nondegradables.
- 3) Erosion control design guidance and product application charts to assist end-users in the proper design and selection of RECPs for specific projects. ECTC provides a general product selection system for slope and channel protection applications on its website, www.ectc.org.
- 4) Index tests and test procedures for RECPs based on their physical properties. ECTC standard terminology and index testing procedures have been compiled into the organization's Technical Guidance Manual, available free of charge to the industry.
- 5) Bench-scale tests to indicate RECP performance adopted by many organizations as the standard.
- 6) Standard specification for Rolled Erosion Control Products.
- 7) Educational materials and seminars to assist in effective RECP selection, design

and installation procedures.

- 8) Information dissemination - ECTC has published a wide variety of articles and white papers in industry publications and conferences.

- 9) ECTC maintains close relationships with industry standards organizations and related associations to help promote the proper use of RECP technology.

- 10) Annual market data reporting system regarding product types, quantities, regional distribution of shipments, and industry growth rates.

Future Vision

Erosion, driven by the forces of nature and magnified by the actions of man, is continuous and cumulative in effect. As human development and expansion continues, the impacts of erosion and sedimentation on our



environment will escalate, unless adequate controls in the form of policies, practices and products are implemented. ECTC has produced many "deliverables" over the past 14 years and is armed with a great deal of knowledge, experience and expertise through its diverse membership. These tools and knowledge have ECTC well positioned to assist regulatory agencies in specification development, educate engineers and contractors on effective erosion and sediment control practices, and promote the proper use of RECPs in combating the cumulative and detrimental effects of erosion on our environment.

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