

Funding for biomass project

The federal government has announced a \$5-million contribution to a biomass-based synthesis gas (syngas) demonstration project at St. Juste-de-la-Bretenières, Quebec.

The project, estimated to cost \$15 million over the next three years, is being undertaken by Biosyn, a general partnership of Canertech Incorporated and Nouveler Incorporated. Canertech is the federal government's venture capital development company that was created to invest in renewable energy conversion technology. It will invest \$5 million in the demonstration project. Nouveler is its Quebec counterpart. Through Canertech participation and through its direct contribution, the government of Canada will provide \$10 million or two-thirds of the cost of the project.

Wood waste used

Biosyn will construct a nine-tonne a day plant involving new pressurized oxygen gasification technology based on forest products industry waste materials. It is intended, in a second stage, to build a further demonstration plant to convert the syngas into methanol. The current estimated cost of this further processing plant is \$30 million.

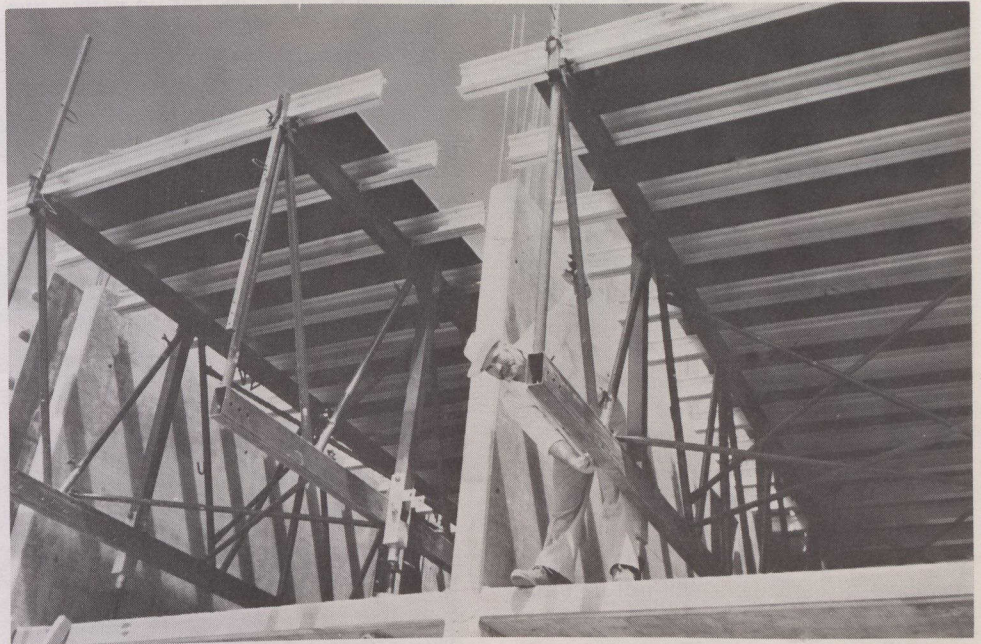
Canertech has also announced the signing of an engineering and supply contract between Biosyn and Omnifuel Gasification Systems of Toronto to provide a fluidized bed gasifier at their plant site southeast of Quebec City. Canertech is a 25 per cent partner with Ontario Energy Corporation in OGS, a joint venture to promote commercialization of this technology in which Canada has an international lead.

Contribution to Polish aid program

The Canadian government recently presented \$200 000 to the Canadian Polish Congress to support the group's aid program in Poland.

The Congress's program assists vulnerable groups in Poland — the elderly, disabled and children. In October 1981, Canada provided \$100 000 through the Canadian International Development Agency to the Congress for the purchase, transportation and distribution of food in Poland. The current grant will allow the Congress to intensify its shipment of relief supplies to Poland.

Export success for Ontario construction equipment firm



A workman erects part of a truss shoring system exported by Anthes Equipment Limited.

An Ontario construction equipment firm is enjoying success in international markets, particularly in Venezuela and the Caribbean.

Anthes Equipment Limited of Mississauga, near Toronto, manufactures truss shoring systems and frames for construction and in the last year with help from the Canadian embassy in Venezuela has shipped almost \$1 million in equipment to that country.

In addition to the orders for Venezuela, Anthes has shipped smaller orders to Trinidad, Bermuda and the Bahamas, and has recently appointed a vice-president for international sales.

Scaffolding stays in place

The system the company exports does away with the need for scaffolding to be erected and dismantled every time the concrete is poured for a floor.

Instead, a crane lifts a number of boxes of steel framework onto a completed floor and aluminum decking is laid across them. Each strip of decking has a wooden ridge to which plywood can be nailed. When the plywood is in place, the concrete is poured. After it dries, the boxes of steel framework are lowered on their supporting jacks and everything pulls away from the newly-poured concrete. The boxes of steel framework then are lifted by crane onto the newly-completed floor and the process begins again.

Neil Woods, Anthes president, said one of the strong points of the company's systems is their simplicity.

"You can ship them knocked down to the site and when they arrive, you can train people quickly on their use," he said. "They don't have to put together a lot of bits and pieces."

Other uses

The same principle used on pouring concrete for floors can also be used for pouring walls and some of the same components can be used.

The systems are ideally suited for any high rise construction, including apartment units, offices, and large bay shopping malls, according to the company. They also can be adapted for bridge construction, temporary pedestrian or vehicular bridges, access stage platforms and temporary buildings for winter construction.

Anthes Equipment Limited had revenues of \$20 million last year and its wholly-owned U.S. subsidiary, Anthes Incorporated has revenues of \$10 million. In Canada and the U.S., the company rents its scaffolding and shoring. In addition to the \$1 million offshore export business, the Canadian company sent truss shoring systems to the U.S. subsidiary which resulted in revenues of about \$6 million last year.

(Excerpts from an article in EDC News, January 1982.)