News Briefs

Metallurgical Coal for the Pacific

Kaiser Resources Limited of Vancouver began development recently of a $200-million metallurgical coal mine at Greenhills, British Columbia. The mine is based on a contract to provide 500,000 metric tons of coal a year for 20 years to Pohang Iron and Steel Company Limited of South Korea. The first shipment is scheduled for mid-1983.

Crows Nest Resources Limited of Fernie, British Columbia, has signed a long-term contract with a consortium of Japanese steel mills to supply 15 million metric tons of metallurgical coal. The coal will come from the company's Line Creek mine now under development in south-eastern British Columbia. Crows Nest, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shell Canada Resources Limited will begin shipments of one million metric tons a year in April 1983. The contract, which is to run for 15 years, follows 12 months of negotiations.

Manalta Coal Limited of Calgary has signed an agreement with the Japanese steel industry whereby its subsidiary, Gregg River Coal Limited, will supply 2.1 million long tons of metallurgical coal annually from its property south of Hinton, Alberta. Under the terms of the agreement, the Japanese will earn a minority interest in the property. Deliveries will start in late 1982 and continue for 15 years.

Contracts Won by Ontario Firms

A consortium of five Ontario companies has won an $80-million contract for the final planning and design of a $2.86-billion university complex in Jeddah, Saudia Arabia. The five Canadian companies in Campus-Consortium Consultants Limited, the group which won the bid, are: Webb, Zerafa, Menkes, Housden; Mechanical Consultants Western Limited; Quinn, Dressel Associates; Arthur Erickson Associates Limited and Project Planning Associates Limited.

Spar Aerospace Limited of Toronto, Ontario, has been awarded two contracts by the Hughes Aircraft Company of Los Angeles, U.S.A., for the supply of components and subsystems for four new satellites being built by Hughes. Total value of the two contracts is $4.4 million. The components and subsystems include satellite structures, power electronics, antenna positioning electronics, encoders, decoders and satellite altitude control electronics.

CEMAR, a consortium of Combustion Engineering-Superheater Limited of Ottawa and Marubeni Corporation of Japan, has been awarded a contract by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand for the supply and commissioning of a 150-megawatt lignite fired steam generator. The unit will be installed at the Mae Moh power station and is scheduled to begin commercial operation in May, 1984.

Philippines has World's First Rice-Husk Board Mill

During a recent visit to the Philippines, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Eugene F. Whelan and Philippine Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco, Jr., officially opened the world's first commercial rice husk board mill in Cabanatuan City. Based on technology and equipment from Cortech Canada Limited and from Hawker Siddeley of Canada, the plant's daily operation converts 14 tonnes of rice husks into some 600 standard 4 ft. x 8 ft. boards. Costs are competitive with other higher quality structural products. The Cabanatuan project is a joint venture between Cortech Asia, local rice producers and millers and other private interests.

The boards, which are termite proof, water resistant and fire retardant, can be produced in thickness from 1/8 in. to 1½ in. Initial production is destined for export markets in Canada, the United States and Europe, with a long term objective of maintaining a 70 per cent export sales component. An important by-product of the process is the recovery of some 15 per cent of the rice husk gross weight in the form of rice grit and bran currently lost in the conventional rice milling process.

The project, which cost $2.85 million, is the first of 15 plants to be launched in the Philippines over the next two years. Five investment applications are currently before the Board of Investment, each with an input capacity of 40T rice husks per day. These plants represent substantial future exports earnings while utilizing widely available waste material. The experience gained in the Philippines will be directly applied to similar programs in other rice-producing nations.

Cold Storage from Canada

Foster Refrigeration of Canada Limited in Drummondville, Quebec, has been building refrigeration equipment, reach-in and walk-in refrigerators and cold-storage rooms in Canada since 1961. During the 1960s the company began exporting its product and the Caribbean was the first export market studies.

After a number of Caribbean sales, the company made a concerted effort in Central and South America. This resulted in good business volume in sales of mortuary-room and blood-bank refrigerators for hospitals in Venezuela, and the sale of a complete kitchen and storage installation to a large hotel in Panama that was built by Canadians and financed by the Export Development Corporation (EDC) of Canada.

Foster participated in a major exhibition in Senegal in 1978 to test markets in Africa, and in a number of major projects in Singapore, Senegal, Tunisia, Cameroun, Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Saudi Arabia. In addition, the company provides supplies for an EDC-financed hotel school in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and portable housing, school and hospital units sold through Canadian export houses to Sonatrach in Algeria.

Petro-Can to Make Rigs

Petro-Canada and a Texas, U.S., company have entered into a deal to produce drilling rigs. Petro-Canada's Chairman Bill Hopper announced that the Canadian Crown corporation and Sedco Incorporated of Dallas would build the world's second dynamically-positioned semi-submersible rig.

As part of the deal, Mr. Hopper said Petro-Canada would have the exclusive use of the rig for at least the first five years of its operation to carry out its continuing efforts to increase and maintain the pace of exploration off the east coast of Canada.

The new Petro-Canada rig should be one of the most sophisticated in the world. With dynamic-positioning it can be kept on location by the use of thrusters that compensate for winds, currents and waves. The rig is only partially submersed, so that it does not have to be fixed to the ocean bed, and can be moved quickly in an emergency.