Hydrolab Joins Hach

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Hydrolab Corp., a water quality monitoring company, has joined the Hach family of companies, officials announced in a March 2003 news release. Hydrolab’s sensors monitor water quality in marine environments around the world.

In addition to probes, Hydrolab manufactures portable and lightweight data displays for use in the field.

The company’s broad customer base includes universities, environmental groups, and governmental agencies devoted to protecting water quality.

Hach provides advanced analytical systems and technical support for water quality testing, with solutions for lab, process and field.

For complete article, visit www.watertechonline.com. Also visit www.hydrolab.com.

R.W. Beck Acquires Texas Consulting Firm

Management consulting and engineering firm R.W. Beck, Inc. announced in March that it has acquired water, wastewater, stormwater, electric, gas and solid waste consulting firm Reed, Stowe & Yanke, LLC (RS&Y) of Austin, Texas.

Effective March 1, RS&Y, a 12-person firm with a reported $1.5 million in billings for 2002, became known as a division of R. W. Beck, a 61-year-old firm based in Seattle. Founded in 1942, R.W. Beck is a management consulting and engineering firm with offices nationwide that provide services to the public and private sectors in the areas of energy, water resources, solid waste, and telecommunications.

Visit www.rwbeck.com

Ground Water Monitoring Offers Monitoring Solutions and More

Ground Water Monitoring LLC (GWM) was established in 2001 to provide alternative solutions in groundwater monitoring services. It currently operates in New Mexico and Colorado. The recently incorporated company is a partnership of retired and former U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources Division (USGS-WRD) employees.

GWM provides groundwater monitoring services, data storage and retrieval, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)-based data presentation services to federal, state, and local governments, and to the private sector. The company also offers well scheduling, network monitoring, water-level measurements, and sampling. GWM can assist in the design, coordination, and application of new monitoring networks, and in the upgrade and modification of existing monitoring networks. By combining technical and practical experience, the company aspires to bring to its clients achievable, long-term economic value for their investments.

GWM President Edward D. Villanueva has 19 years of experience with USGS-WRD and 18 years in the private sector, working on both the national and international levels. In addition to his technical expertise, Villanueva has extensive experience in business management and human resources development.

Contact information: (877) 313-8445 or GWM30@msn.com

INTERA Wins EBJ Achievement Award

The Environmental Business Journal (EBJ) recently announced its annual EBJ Business Achievement Awards for small, medium, and large firms. Among small firms (less than $20 million), INTERA was awarded an honorable mention for “its management- and employee-funded buyback from Duke Engineering and its first-year performance of $11 million in revenue and EBIT of 20 percent,” according to EBJ. The EBJ awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals to firms in each category, and INTERA was one of only five companies to receive an honorable mention for 2002. The EBJ solicits the industry for nominations via email, Web site, and word of mouth, and awards are determined by an internal committee and selected advisory board members.

INTERA is a Texas corporation with offices in New Mexico and Colorado as well.

Haestad Methods Introduces GISTalk™

On March 10, Haestad Methods, a provider of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based hydraulic modeling solutions, launched its latest on-line discussion group, GISTalk, accessible at www.haestad.com/forums. This free on-line forum provides a place for GIS professionals to ask questions and raise issues regarding geographic and geospatial information systems and receive feedback from colleagues and Haestad Methods’ GIS experts.

Professionals interested in joining GISTalk can subscribe by visiting www.haestad.com/lists or by e-mailing GISTalk-subscribe@lists.mycivil.com.

DBS&A Senior Scientist Granted U.S. Patent For Water Run-Off Siphon

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (DBS&A) of Albuquerque announced in March that James Kelsey, Senior Scientist with DBS&A, has been co-awarded a patent for the development of a drainage system that enhances water quality, recharges groundwater, and controls erosion. According to U.S. patent No. 6,467,994, this invention provides an “apparatus and method for beneficial use or handling of run-off or collected water.”

The system diverts storm water into a subsurface infiltration trench to seep slowly into the soil. A unique design feature makes the trench self-cleaning and prevents clogging of the system.
Siphoning trenches inexpensively allows for:

- Removing viruses, pesticides, or other compounds.
- Increasing groundwater recharge.
- Promoting plant growth to reduce erosion.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the first one-half inch of rainwater, called first flush, washes chemicals such as oil, gas and antifreeze from pavement. If the first flush is diverted to the subsurface instead of flowing down an arroyo directly to rivers and streams, as the newly patented system is designed to accomplish, most of the chemical contaminants, including viruses and other compounds, will be consumed by microbes in the soil. Furthermore, channeling runoff water into the ground also reduces evaporation, increasing groundwater recharge. Finally, the new drainage system, by directing storm water underground, is also expected to prevent earth and vegetation on the surface from flooding and washing away, thereby reducing erosion.

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