

McKinstry Innovation Center Fosters Four New Companies

At 70 percent capacity, the Center continues to gain momentum

SEATTLE (March 1, 2011) – In less than a year since opening, the [McKinstry Innovation Center](#) has added a total of seven companies and organizations dedicated to supplying vital ideas and solutions to the energy challenges facing our environment and region. Each has doubled in size since joining the Center, creating jobs and contributing to the progress of Seattle’s clean technology community.

“We spoke of wanting to be a springboard for clean energy and renewable resource producers, and now we are putting that goal into action as we help these companies come to market in the Seattle clean technology industry,” said Elsa Croonquist, director of the McKinstry Innovation Center.

The McKinstry Innovation Center started with a capacity for about ten companies. It has expanded its reach from the built environment to the renewable materials and education sectors, demonstrating the importance of reaching all areas of clean energy advancement. The Center exists to nurture and propel Seattle’s clean technology market while making the city a leader for the region and the nation.

McKinstry has a 50-year history of designing, building, operating and maintaining advanced mechanical, electrical, data and plumbing systems that deliver, monitor and regulate energy use. Visited by President Obama in 2008 for a tour of its cutting edge operations, the firm continues to participate in advancing cleaner energy solutions.

The Center has recently added four new tenants that through their innovative contributions will revolutionize the clean technology sector:

- The American Strategic Group is a Seattle-based natural gas development company that is bringing to market new technologies that allow for the increased use of cleaner fuels for transportation fueling, backup electrical generation, stranded gas and renewable biogas marketing, emergency fuel storage and microgrids.

“From design to manufacturing to marketing, our business is strengthened by our presence in the McKinstry Innovation Center,” said Stephen Lambo, President of the American Strategic Group. “Our ability to collaborate with other clean technology innovators as a part of the Innovation Center community is essential to our growth and the future of Seattle’s economy.”

- [Everest Sciences](#) advances the gas turbine industry with its proprietary integrated, packaged systems that combine inlet filtration and inlet cooling designed to provide cooler, denser air to enable greater power output with improved fuel efficiency.

- [TreeFree Biomass Solutions, Inc.](#) brings innovation to the alternative materials sector with its patented Nile Fiber™ that serves as a substitute for tree material in manufacturing high quality pulp, paper, building materials, bio-fuels, bio-energy, pharmaceutical products, and chemicals.

"The Innovation Center gives us the unparalleled opportunity to draw on the expertise of McKinstry as well as our fellow entrepreneurs with both operations and innovation," said Eulysses Lewis, president of TreeFree Biomass. "Being here will help us anchor in the northwest renewable resources market while contributing to its expansion."

- [Emerald Cities Seattle](#) is a public-private-nonprofit partnership that seeks to implement a comprehensive retrofit of Seattle's building stock for deep energy savings, carbon reduction, and equitable high road jobs in the construction industry.

These five companies have joined the existing McKinstry Innovation Center companies: [General Biodiesel](#), [EcoFab](#) and [Hydrovolts](#).

About the McKinstry Innovation Center

The McKinstry Innovation Center is located in Seattle's Georgetown neighborhood on the McKinstry campus headquarters at 5005 Third Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98134. The 24,000-square-foot neo-industrial offices were designed by the architecture firm NBBJ. For information, contact Managing Director, Elsa Croonquist at McKinstry, (206) 832-8049 or elsac@mckinstry.com.

About McKinstry

McKinstry is a full-service, design-build-operate-and-maintain (DBOM) firm specializing in consulting, construction, energy and facility services. Our innovative, integrated delivery methodology provides clients with a single point of accountability that drives waste, cost, time, and redundancy out of the design/build process. We employ over 1,600 professional staff and trades people throughout the Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountains, West, Midwest, and Southwest regions of the United States with operations in more than 15 states. McKinstry advocates collaborative and sustainable solutions designed to ensure occupant comfort, improve systems efficiency, reduce facility operational costs, and ultimately optimize profitability for "The Life of Your Building."

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