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by Kayla Schlechter

Growing with Technology



As technology advances, opportunities for kids to learn in an interactive environment continue to grow. POET Biorefining – Jewell, Iowa is helping prepare a local Iowa elementary school for the 21st century by bringing SMART Boards into South Hamilton first grade classrooms. The SMART Board is an interactive computer screen/white board that gives students the opportunity to touch, write and move objects with their hands.

“It’s hard to express how appreciative we are that POET Biorefining – Jewell is helping make this project possible. POET continues to prove their

commitment to our students, school and community and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts,” says Paul Hemphill, South Hamilton K-6 Principal.

This program will help provide the foundation for South Hamilton students to learn, use and grow with the most current technologies available.

“We will be using 1,000 programs and collaborating with a neighboring school district to share ideas, lessons and new findings with the SMART Board,” remarks Alison Hassebrock, first grade teacher at South Hamilton Elementary.

FULFILLING A NEED

At a time when job loss was at a high, POET Biorefining – Emmetsburg, Iowa asked employees to reach into their pockets and support Upper Des Moines annual Adopt-a-Family Program.

Adopt-a-Family recipients provide Upper Des Moines with a listing of items that their family needs. The adopters take that list and purchase the needed items and include additional items of choice.

POET Biorefining – Emmetsburg adopted two families this year – each of whom had a two year old child. They needed items such as food certificates, pajamas, diapers, etc. Thanks to the generosity of team members, in addition to the items on their list, the two families received numerous clothing items, toys and books.

Extreme Ethanol Optimization

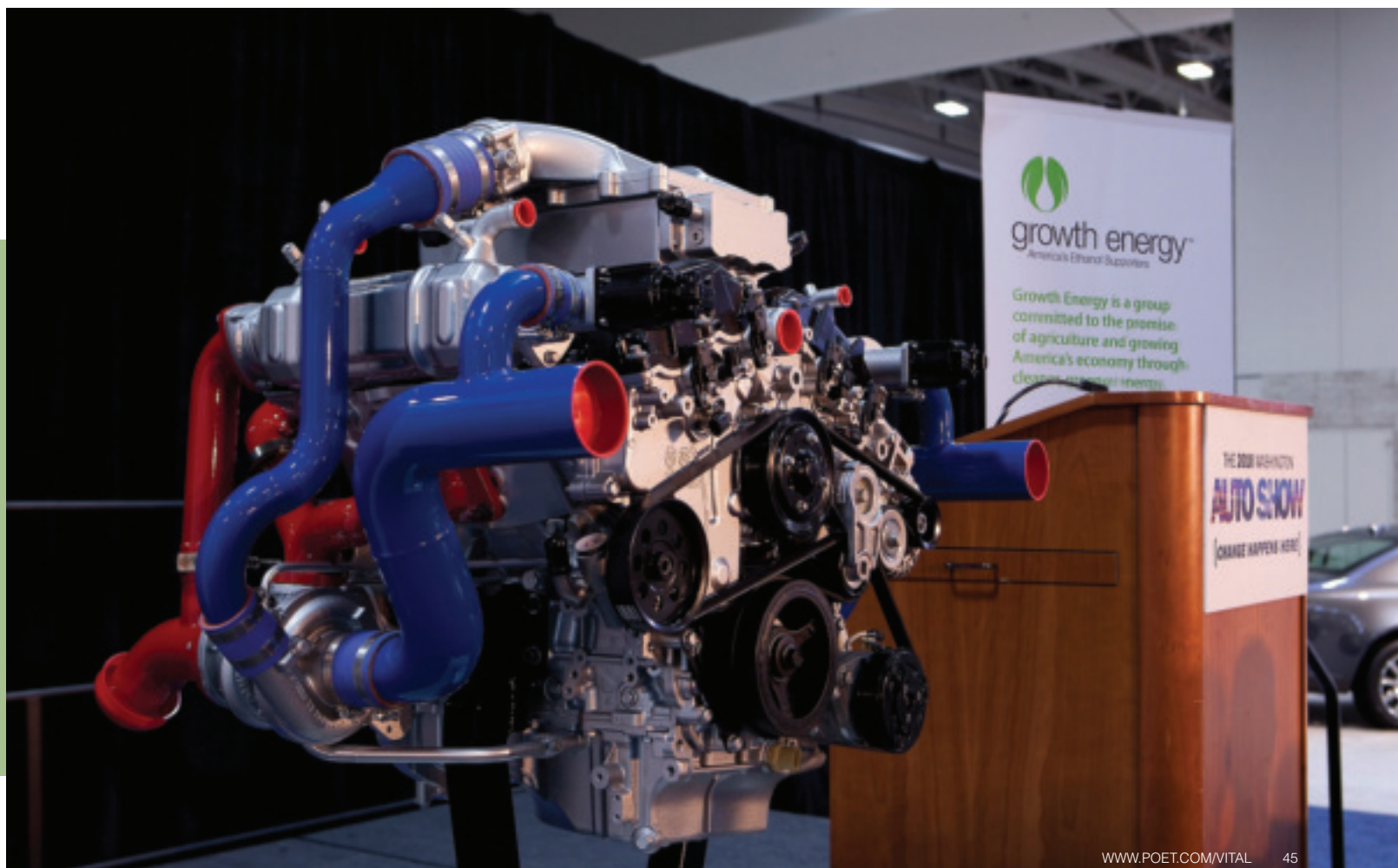
(see “Maximizing Efficiency. Minimizing Impact,” *Vital*, Winter 2010)

The Ethanol Boosted Direct Injection (EBDI) engine is making a big splash at auto shows. Announced at the Washington Auto Show in January, the partnership between Ricardo and Growth Energy aims to demonstrate that a highly optimized engine fueled on ethanol can provide a cost-effective, low-carbon, high-fuel economy alternative to fossil fuel.

The future of engine technology: a much smaller engine, no loss of power, better mileage and optimized to use clean, homegrown ethanol.

Based on current tests, Ricardo estimates a fuel economy improvement of up to 30 percent is possible with no loss of power or performance using a downsized EBDI engine in place of currently available gasoline powertrain technology.

By the fall of 2010, Ricardo, in partnership with Growth Energy, will have two demonstration vehicles, converting GMC’s Sierra full-size 6.6 liter diesel engine pickup with the 3.2 liter ethanol fueled EBDI engine.



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➤➤ Two Decades and counting



Twenty years ago, POET's family consisted of one plant in Scotland, S.D. The team was small, but talented. They ran the plant, worked in the lab and performed whatever tasks were asked of them.

Deb Roth began at the Research Center two decades ago, and now serves as Research Lab Manager. She remembers the days when her job description included overall plant tasks.

"The company was quite small and team members gladly stepped up where needed," Roth says. "We helped each other - whether it meant assisting in plant downtime or operating the plant."

With the Research Center at the forefront of POET's technology advancements, Roth works closely with POET Research to move lab developments to the pilot scale - building the ground work for many of POET's proprietary technologies.

Having grown with the company, Roth is glad to be a part of the POET culture. "I enjoy working with such a great group of people that have dedicated so much of their time to building an awesome company that's revolutionizing the world," Roth says. "It's rewarding to be a part of this team."

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