

News Release – Rising Stars
Calgary, AB

Oilweek reveals newest class of Rising Stars

Oilweek magazine, the flagship property of the JuneWarren-Nickle's Energy Group, has hit the streets with its May issue, showcasing the latest group of inductees in its popular Rising Stars class, which profiles the Canadian energy industry's future leaders.

The 12 inductees for 2009—all under the age of 45—include John O'Rourke, founder and president of Sigit Automation; Michelle Stroo, who launched and still leads the Aegis Group, a successful online safety training provider; and Greg Farney, a drilling company manager who uses timber discarded because of pine beetle infestations in Alberta and British Columbia to build rollout wooden mats that oilfield operators are required to use beneath heavy equipment to protect sensitive terrain.

The nine remaining Rising Stars are:

- **Richard Campbell**, managing principal, Vista Projects Ltd.
- **Logan Day**, vice-president, transaction advisory services, Ernst & Young
- **Jacques Drouin**, president and chief executive officer, ProSep Inc.
- **Cory Finley**, founder and president, Demon Oilfield Services
- **Ron Lewko**, team leader, environmental research, Syncrude Canada
- **Tina Pant-Ducharme**, managing director, business development, Tek Compliance Solutions Inc.
- **Cameron Plewes**, managing director, corporate finance, Peters & Co.
- **Darius Remesat**, director of technology and business development, Koch-Glitsch Canada LP.
- **Brian Taylor**, president and chief operating officer, Detection Technologies

"They're all successful in their respective corporate environments, either as entrepreneurs or scientists or innovators," *Oilweek* editor Dale Lunan says. "But it takes more than that to be a Rising Star—they are also giving back to their communities, whether by mentoring university students, directing major fundraising efforts, or helping new Canadians develop the skills they need to get and keep jobs here in Canada."

"We're thrilled to induct our second class of Rising Stars," said *Oilweek* publisher Agnes Zalewski. "These are the individuals that will shape the future of the industry."

The full story on each Rising Star can be found online at www.oilweek.com/risingstars. *Oilweek's* 2009 Class of Rising Stars will be formally recognized at a reception on June 25 at Calgary's Hotel Arts. Tickets to this exclusive event may be obtained by contacting Jennifer McNevin at (403) 265-3700, Ext. 118.



Compressed wisdom

After two decades, Brian Taylor's compressor analysis operation has cornered the market

TODAY IN western Canada, gas compressors are such a common sight that one hardly notices them—that is, unless you are Brian Taylor, the co-developer of a software program that provides instant health reports to compressors' owners.

His company, Detection Technologies, boasts one-third of all compressors in Canada as its patients. Since their average client has 50 compressors on its books, it doesn't take much math to see that that means a lot of compressors. This helps explain Detection's business model, which Brian describes simply as: build on volume. "It's kind of like the hula hoop principle," he adds.

Since hula hoops have long gone the way of pet rocks and pogo sticks, that comparison may have originated with Brian's father Alan, who founded the company in 1998 and developed the initial version of Analysis.



Born: Feb. 24, 1975

Education: B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering, University of Calgary

Family: Married to Tana. They have four children, all under the age of seven.

After two decades in the industry that included many hours working on compressors, Alan decided that operators needed a diagnostic tool that would help them use their compressor fleets more efficiently. Most of them used spreadsheets to discern the health of their compressors, but they had so many to look after that the process took precious time, and key indicators were sometimes missed.

To solve the problem, Alan developed the Analysis tool for reciprocating compressors. When his son Brian, a mechanical engineer, joined the company, he designed a version of Analysis for screw compressors. The father-son duo has cornered 40 per cent of the market—although as Brian points out, there really is no head-to-head competition for the product.

When a company signs on as a client, the first step is for a Detection engineer to audit its compressors. Once the basic information is in the computer, the information is stored on a secure website. To generate a health report, an operator enters real-time data such as pressures and temperatures and receives an instant analysis. From this, he can see if components such as valves

or piston rings are in need of repair and whether the machine is running safely.

Operators tend to err on the conservative side, says Brian, often setting up the machines to operate at less than full capability.

"In a lot of cases, due to lack of information, operators don't set up the machines to operate optimally," says Brian. Typically, they will settle for 75 per cent utilization. "But about six months later [after installing the Detection tool] we see it rise to over 90 per cent."

Almost as fast as the hula hoop spread to every dime store in North America, Detection's diagnostic tool has caught on across the natural gas producing world. It is now being used by producers from the Arctic to the Appalachian Basin and from Brazil to Australia. Brian has set his sights on North Africa next.

One item on this star's resume cannot help but catch a reader's eye—in 1996 Brian

and an engineering school buddy persuaded the University of Calgary to support their design of a Formula 1 race car. It would be the first time the university entered the annual student competition held in Detroit. Brian's team raised \$75,000, built the car, entered the race, and placed 67th out of 114.

"That program of designing and building a race car is now offered by the university as a for-credit course. That's probably the neatest thing for me," he says. In the years since, he's helped mentor other students participating in the F-1 program, and was a gold sponsor of the 2008 edition of the competition.

Other activities take him beyond the world of compressors: he's a regular volunteer speaker for the Dale Carnegie program in Calgary, and can often be found behind the serving line at the Calgary Drop-In Centre.

Not surprisingly, it is Brian's father who has had the greatest influence on his career. There is a poignant note however. When Brian was growing up he says, "Dad was always working. I never really got to know him until we started working together. So it's been really cool for me." ★



Photo: Neil Koven Photography

