



NEWS RELEASE

Testing Begins on Water Recycling System for Sonic Drill Rigs

December 29, 2009 – Throughout the world, company CEOs and industry leaders are trying to be as environmentally-responsible as possible – even in the messy world of drilling. Engineer Ray Roussy, inventor of the modern-day sonic drill and president of the Sonic Drill Corporation and Sonic Drilling Ltd., gave his product a head start more than 30 years ago.

Even back then, when Roussy's sonic rig was first developed, it didn't require drilling mud for lubrication and cooling, using only air or water and that simple difference alone produced 70% less mess on-site.

Experimenting with new equipment and new ideas is an ongoing process for the Sonic team to ensure that sonic drills and their operating procedures are the best they can be and that experimentation led to a search for a method to recycle drilling water.

While the sonic drilling system uses only fresh water to drill, it does pick up sand and other materials as it bores through the earth and those materials are routed back to the surface. Searching for a recycling solution, Sonic Drilling Ltd.'s general manager Bill Fitzgerald decided to test a Sand Guzzler, supplied by Tony Tibban of Tibban Mfg. Inc. of California.

"Normally, we would dig a pit to re-circulate the water," said Fitzgerald. "But some sites may be nicely grassed where you don't want to make a mess by digging a pit. So, we put in one of Tibban's Sand Guzzlers and attached it to what we are calling our Roll-Off Bin. This is a bin where the sand settles to the bottom and the water runs over the top of the baffles, which filters out most stuff, leaving mostly water in the tank. When we're done, we can load up everything and take it away and there's no mess left behind."

Fitzgerald says Tony Tibban gave him the Sand Guzzler to use free of charge to see if it worked with the sonic equipment. "We've had it on a few different jobs now and it has been very favorable," he says.

But in fine Sonic tradition, Fitzgerald wasn't totally satisfied with either his own Roll-Off Bin or the Sand Guzzler, so more research and development is under way which, as it turns out, is just fine with Tibban.

Tibban has been working on mud recycling systems for some time now and released his first MudPuppy in 1990. Since then, he has constantly refined the equipment and process, improving its environmental performance along the way. Tibban now has developed five MudPuppy models, along with the Sand Guzzler, and a variety of other auxiliary drilling equipment.
