

TEAM EFFORT

The presenters are keen, the projects are intense, and the audience has an abundance of tough questions.

Still, Queen's University TEAM students who presented recently to a number of Shell Canada's brightest and toughest, say the opportunity was well worth the time, hard work and pre-presentation butterflies."



Queen's University TEAM students (L to R) Naiyu Zhang, Marc-Andre Lynch, Michael Kwong, Anna Petryshyn, Christina Dao, Pardeep Grewal recently presented their findings on Upgrader cooling options to a number of people from Shell's Oil Sands team in Calgary

"Working with Shell on this TEAM project was both challenging and rewarding. We all feel fortunate to have gained client-based project experience during our last year of our respective degrees, and working with a client like Shell was both positive and memorable," said group member Anna Petryshyn, a Mechanical Engineering student.

Technology, Engineering and Management (TEAM) is a multidisciplinary project course offered by the Department of Chemical Engineering at Queen's University. The program links fourth-year students in Arts, Science, Engineering, Law, Commerce and Business programs with industry organizations looking for additional consulting resources.

Queen's began offering the program in 1995 and Shell Canada has participated as part of its Campus Ambassador Program (CAP) commitment for the past three years.

The group's presentation focused on a feasibility study of cooling processes at the Scotford Upgrader Expansion site. The study evaluated and compared cooling options for the potential Scotford Upgrader 2, for which a regulatory application was filed in 2007. The study and recommendations considered a combination of technological, environmental and economic factors.

Oil Sands Environmental Process Engineering Manager Adrian Irimia said the conclusion of the study was somewhat unexpected.

"We were surprised to see the dry water cooling plus trim chilling alternative score higher overall compared to the conventional evaporative water cooling technology. Moreover, the dry water-cooling option could help future developments comply with the Alberta Water Management Framework for Alberta Industrial Heartland, although this would have to be carefully evaluated in terms of the redesign requirements."

Oil Sands Vice-President, Operations Thomas Zengerly attended the presentation and commended the students on their efforts.

"These projects are quite challenging. It is clear these students worked very hard on this study, and their presentation offered some perspective we had not considered," Zengerly said. "Overall, the real reward, for both the students and Shell, is the relationship-building opportunity we realize through our involvement with TEAM and the CAP program."

David Mody, Adjunct Lecturer with TEAM, said working with companies such as Shell has helped the TEAM project course evolve, to the benefit of both the students and industry.

"When companies see Shell and other large, multinational organizations working with TEAM, it immediately lends to the credibility of the program and the students," said Mody.

Petryshyn added, "The opportunity to work in a real-world scenario has helped us build our confidence in communicating with clients, field experts and supplier companies. This course was unlike any I've taken, and has been a great experience for all of us as we prepare for our careers."

By Tanya Ristoff

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