



# NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COMMERCE CENTER

## Regional Sustainable Development...Key to Long-Term Security

As the national economy rebounds, some local communities are pursuing economic stability with an emphasis upon self-reliance as a key component of long-term security. In implementing the Armament Retooling and Manufacturing Support (ARMS) Program at the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant (LAAAP), the Army recognizes that community's emphasis upon economic development through the efficient use of regional natural resources and development of synergies between industries. The LAAAP is near the community of Minden, 28 miles east of the Shreveport metro area, in South Webster Parish amidst the piney hills of Northwest Louisiana.

Seeking to reduce the Army's cost footprint at drawn-down AAPs and also to dampen the related downsizing impacts upon AAP communities, the ARMS Program has endorsed the progressive thinking of the Northwest Louisiana Commerce Center ([www.nwlcc.com](http://www.nwlcc.com)), an Eco-Industrial Park located at the LAAAP. By blending focused resource and material research into design strategies for companies and communities to pursue self-reliance, the NWLCC is spreading a gospel of self-reliance that nurtures economic stability.

The NWLCC stresses self-reliance where local communities can meet basic needs in environmentally and economically sustainable ways. In the NWLCC view, only sustainable systems

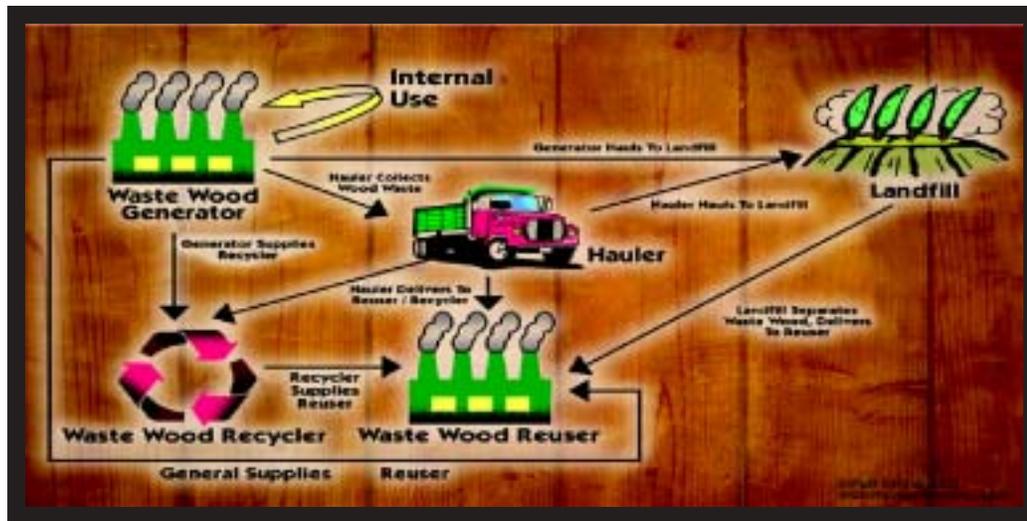
-- those that over their lifetimes produce the energy and materials needed to build and sustain themselves -- can provide permanent economic stability.

Eco-industrial parks, similar in some respects to standard industrial parks, allow firms to share infrastructure as a strategy for enhancing production and minimizing costs. In these parks, industries are linked together to share waste streams and resource flow. Principles of industrial ecology are applied to incorporate the cyclical patterns of ecosystems into designs for industrial production processes that work in unison with natural systems.

In exploring the emerging field of sustainability through industrial ecology, Valentec Systems Inc., the LAAAP facility use contractor, and their Full Circle LLP marketing advisors have conducted a regional marketing survey to identify ideal target markets to situate in northwest Louisiana. This team identified two key industry targets: timber/wood and renewable energy.

Northwest Louisiana offers significant value-added potential to the timber/wood industry. The NWLCC has recently placed a new tenant who manufactures particleboard from 100% post-consumer wood feedstock, one link in the industrial ecology of the wood industry (See figure below). Other development targets in this area include pallet refurbishment, composting and energy production.

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*Sources, flows and sinks of waste wood in the regional economy*



**Two 25,000 sq. ft. buildings will be joined and utilized for a particleboard manufacture operation at LAAAP**

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The NWLCC team utilizes Industrial Ecology and Permaculture, strategies that use the functional properties of natural ecosystems as the foundation for design. Permaculture (from PERMANent agriCULTURE) is an integrated system of design that includes not only agriculture, horticulture, architecture and ecology but also land access strategies, renewable energy and economic systems for businesses and communities. With the efficient growth potential inherent in Permaculture, the NWLCC is exploring the potential of bio-fuels to both add value to Louisiana’s rich agricultural economy and to develop systems for renewable energy.

The NWLCC is also researching plasma arc technology. Electricity is used to super-heat plasma gases to treat solid material. This results in the production of Syngas, a synthesis gas mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen

used as a feedstock for energy production via hydrogen fuel cells. This industrial ecosystem thereby converts waste products to energy.

Prospective users of these technologies report that landfills nationwide have reached or are nearing their maximum capacities. These wastes, as well as newly-produced wastes, can be screened for their potential to produce power for their respective regions, thereby increasing the potential for future reclamation of land currently committed to waste disposal.

Victor A. Guadagno, the NWLCC Program Manager, states, “The NWLCC reuse strategy seeks to demonstrate an industrial ecosystem design that generates business opportunities from the thoughtful analysis of material/resource cycles.” ■

## **Groundbreaking for Innovative Disposal System at Iowa ARMS Site**



An innovative process for environmentally-friendly disposal of reactive and explosive materials was recently introduced to the Iowa AAP (IAAAP) in Middletown, Iowa, a southeastern Iowa community in Des Moines County, ten miles west of the Mississippi River and Burlington,

Iowa. Advanced Environmental Technology, Inc. (AET) held groundbreaking ceremonies for its new energetics treatment facility.

AET operates in Iowa and California and specializes in inexpensive environmentally-friendly disposal methods for reactive or explosive materials. The new AET facility being developed at the IAAAP will dispose of explosive waste, including propellants, pyrotechnics, munitions and detonators. The enclosed disposal system is specifically designed to protect the environment; over 92% of the material treated will be

recycled by the thermal process. The disposal system is planned for activation during 2002.

The partnership between AET and the IAAAP will prove advantageous to both parties and to the Middletown community. AET shall provide new jobs and business opportunities at the IAAAP. Initially, AET plans to hire local people to operate the disposal facility. To the benefit of the Army, AET shall utilize existing plant facilities, transportation systems and support capabilities such as security, emergency response and laboratory services. The overall partnership was realized through ARMS Program funding of site modifications at IAAAP.

Groundbreaking ceremonies (pictured on Page Three) were attended by members of the U.S. Army Operations Support Command (OSC) ARMS Team, local community and business leaders, Iowa state economic development personnel and members of the Des Moines office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ■

## **ARMS** *Outreach on the Road!*

ARMS Team members and ARMS contractors (pictured at right with the Operation Enterprise display) networked with corporate real estate professionals attending the 20-24 October 2001 International Development Research Council Texas World Congress in Dallas. The IDRC ([www.idrc.org](http://www.idrc.org)) is the world's leading professional association for executives managing corporate assets and the support units that define corporate infrastructure. The forum's timely theme, "Enhancing Corporate Real Estate's Value Proposition in a Time of Economic Change", addressed the challenges of managing real estate assets for maximum value within the flux of changing economic conditions.

At the World Congress, senior-level corporate real estate executives anchored a learning session of expert presenters, their best practices and solutions to their challenges, all relating to the theme, "Managing through the Downturn: Creative Cost Control Strategies".

Notable speakers at the IDRC conference included Lester Thurow, Professor of Economics and Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and world-renowned economics columnist; John Seely Brown, Chief Scientist at the Xerox Corporation and co-founder of the Institute for Research on Learning; Oscar van Weerdenburg, managing director of Intercultural Business Improvement (IBI) and specialist in cross-cultural training and consulting; and motivational speaker James Bradley, the best-selling author of *Flags of Our Fathers*, the true story behind the immortal



**Pictured left to right:**

**Sid Saunders, Pendulum Management Company (PMC);  
Garry Eichorn, OSC ARMS Team;  
Wayne Gouguet, Mason Technologies, Inc., Mississippi AAP;  
Jim Burgin, PMC;  
Doug Borgeson, OSC ARMS Team;  
Dave Ratcliff, Alliant Techsystems, Radford AAP;  
Doug Hanify, American Ordnance, Iowa AAP**

photograph of the World War II-era flag-raising at Iwo Jima.

The ARMS advocates pictured above manned the Operation Enterprise display and outlined ARMS Program facts and benefits to many of the over 1,200 forum attendees. ■

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**Pictured Left to Right:**

**Kennard G. Karr, Vice President and Plant Manager, American Ordnance (Contractor for the Iowa AAP);  
Michael R. Brouwer, President and CEO, Burlington and West Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce; Ronald E. Gregg, President, Advanced Environmental Technology, Inc.; Tony B. Noll, Director, Business Development, American Ordnance; Dennis G. Cosso, AET General Counsel; Fred W. Taylor, Jr., Civilian Executive Assistant, Iowa AAP**



**Groundbreaking ceremony for the new AET facility at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant**



## Riverbank Gains Another New Tenant

NI Industries (aka Norris Industries), the facility use contractor that operates the 170-acre Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant (RBAAP) as the Riverbank Industrial Complex ([www.riverbankindcomplex.com](http://www.riverbankindcomplex.com)) recently added American Mode, Inc. to their tenant roster. The Complex is in Riverbank, California, just northeast of Modesto in the heart of California's

thriving San Joaquin Valley. American Mode owners Lee and Pauline Willems, are expanding their existing Modesto business by adding assembly operations at RBAAP for their newly-acquired Profile 80 office systems furniture line.

Profile 80 products, a semi-to-custom line, include panels, work surfaces, overhangs, and pedestals. All Profile 80 panels are highly rated for noise reduction, fully tackable, flexible enough to conform to even irregularly-shaped spaces (with widths from 6" to 72" and heights from 30" to 120" floor-to-ceiling in single panels) and stackable. Electrical power and data raceways, single or dual, can be located anywhere on the panels. Panel options include doors, locks, vision panels, and fabric or laminate surfaces.

The American Mode customer base ranges from real estate brokers to airline call centers to government and university offices. The Willems are proud to continue the original owner's trademark by closely coordinating their acquired activity with their established dealers, as well as maintaining the quality standards of their Profile 80 products. These core business concepts make them a solid addition to the Riverbank Industrial Complex.

To accommodate this new tenant, the ARMS Team awarded funding to NI, who in turn managed the incorporation of site improvements including privacy fencing, the addition of skylights in the work area and refurbishment of existing office space. As a result, American Mode assembly activities have hit the ground running within approximately 20,000 square feet of previously unused facility space at the Riverbank Industrial Complex. ■



*Assembly Area at American Mode Inc.*



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