

EH&S Excellence

Atlanta was the host site for KII's biggest-ever Environmental, Health and Safety Conference in May. A record 350 EH&S professionals attended the event, which included an awards ceremony honoring six teams from five different Koch companies.

In his opening remarks, Charles Koch, KII's chairman and CEO, stressed not only the necessity of EH&S excellence,

but the opportunities that excellence can create.

"If we can become clearly superior in all aspects of EH&S," said Koch, "we will be able to succeed where others can't. This will enable us to grow and provide superior job opportunities."

Koch outlined three sets of

initiatives for achieving even higher standards of EH&S excellence.

The first involved building understanding and commitment to the new vision for Compliance and EHS excellence. That vision is currently being rolled out to all Koch companies.

The second initiative was culture-based, with a heightened focus on the MBM® Guiding Principles. That focus requires commitment from every employee in every role.

Third, Koch stressed the importance of better knowledge sharing and more effective risk management systems. "We need to increase our rate of learning and improvement."

Charles Koch concluded his remarks by saying: "I congratulate all the award winners today. This achievement shows

that you are serving as role models, helping others follow in your footsteps."

And the winners are...

Georgia-Pacific, which had two EH&S winners in 2009, continued its winning tradition with two more winners this year.

Flint Hills Resources, INVISTA and Koch-Glitsch also were repeat winners. Koch Fertilizer Canada won for the first time.

Allen Lasater, who is now the president of Koch's Reiss Remediation business, helped plan this year's conference.

Lasater, an 18-year Koch company employee, likes the fact there are no automatic wins (such as one per company) or limits on the number of times a company can win. He believes this approach is more in keeping with our MBM culture.

"We've always emphasized Market-Based Management® when choosing winners," Lasater said. "But I think this year we really stressed our Guiding Principles in a more explicit way.

"These awards provide very specific, real-life examples of what EH&S excellence looks like and how we can employ our Principles for greater success.

"Koch-Glitsch, in particular, provided an example everyone can learn from."

New kid in town

Koch-Glitsch won for the enhanced knowledge sharing that helped make its new pilot plant a reality.



Wichita - Koch-Glitsch uses this award-winning R&D unit to test distillation and heat transfer processes.

That structure, completed in March of this year, was the first new addition to the 100-acre Wichita campus since the tower building opened in 1992. It is also believed to be the largest pilot plant of its type in the world.



(L-R) Jim Mahoney (KII), Lucinda Legel and Lowell Miller-Stolte (FHR - Pine Bend), Sheryl Corrigan (FHR - Wichita) and Charles Koch. FHR was one of six 2010 EH&S Award winners.

Koch-Glitsch uses the new facility to measure mass transfer efficiency and the hydraulic capacity of the "internals" the company designs for processing plants.

"We recognized right away that this project required more expertise than we had," said Randy Hardy, project leader for Koch-Glitsch. "So we reached out to several other Koch companies for the knowledge that we needed.

"I think that's a pretty good example of principles six and eight (knowledge and humility) in action."

Once Koch-Glitsch received that valuable input, they were able to design the pilot plant in a way that went beyond the EH&S standards typical in the mass transfer industry.

"Our team made decisions to go beyond current environmental rules," said Hardy, "which enabled us to not only reduce boiler emissions but eliminate a number of potential leaks."

2010 EH&S Award Winners

Koch Fertilizer Canada - Brandon, Manitoba
Ammonia emissions reduction

Flint Hills Resources (Asphalt) - Rosemount, Minn.
Pine Bend asphalt hydrogen sulfide reduction

Georgia-Pacific Consumer Products LP - Atlanta, Ga.
Improved sustainability of transportation resources

Georgia-Pacific containerboard mill - Brewton, Ala.
Significant opacity reduction

Koch-Glitsch - Wichita, Kan.
Enhanced knowledge sharing during pilot plant construction

INVISTA - Camden, S.C.
Reduced energy intensity performance