



Continental Technologies Fits Into PCDA Spec Building "Bob"

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One of Ponca City's newest industries at the Airport Industrial Park is Continental Technologies LLC, housed in the former speculation building "Bob."

The building was constructed for Ponca City Development Authority (PCDA) seeking a worthy industry. Although there were several possible occupants, Continental Tech had all the components PCDA was seeking.

Todd H. Harkins, Engineering and Operations Manager, explained the components of the operation, "We build skids. We work with our customers and help them take their technology towards commercialization.

"We design, fabricate and build small to large module process plants to help them develop their technology."

The company specializes in pilot plants, bench-scale systems and modular, skidded units for industries such as oil and gas, chemical, petrochemical, catalysts, polymers and up-stream and downstream refinery operations.

After leaving ConocoPhillips, Harkins went to Colorado to work for Continental Technologies parent company Eltron Research & Development. After a couple of years Harkins was offered the opportunity to come back to Ponca City to head up Continental Technologies. He jumped at the chance to return here with his family.

Also Harkins was aware that there were changes happening at ConocoPhillips and people with the skill sets needed for the operation of the Continental Technologies were in Ponca City and they would help the company grow. "We all came from here so it was not a huge learning curve. We also knew of vendors in the community we could use." The vendors include Mitchco Inc., Precision Tool and Die. They also use Fastenal Company, Brandts and Lowe's.

PCDA's Choice

David Myers, PCDA executive, said, "Continental Technologies was extremely appealing to us for a variety of reasons. They are a company with strong growth potential, turning research into commercialized products.



Continental Technologies, 2405 Sykes Boulevard, is one of the new premiere industries to locate in Ponca City. The building, previously known as "Bob," was constructed by the Ponca City Development Authority as a "spec building," to attract industry to town.
(News Photo by Louise Abercrombie)

"Continental Technologies helps us to continue to diversify our local economy with high technology jobs that pay well, and they use the same skill sets that are used in oil and gas research.

"We have a strong base of potential employees for them and the continuing research of their parent company will provide expanding opportunities well into the future."

The company is geared for the energy and petro chemical sectors. They are also working with alternative fuels customers on biomass procedures.

The Parent Company

Eltron Research & Development is located in Boulder, Colo., and owned by Paul Grimmer, president, a former Conocoan, who purchased Eltron after leaving Conoco. Another Conocoan and Ponca Citian, Doug Jack, is vice president of technology at Eltron. He was in charge of the Gas To Liquids (GTL) pilot plant here, with Grimmer as the lead in Houston.

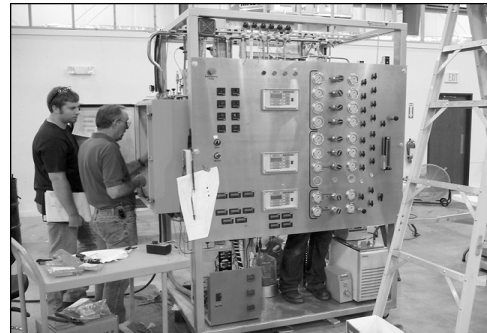
The GTL plant technology was successful, but after the merger of Conoco and Phillips further development was scrubbed.

Grimmer is leading a major change within Eltron to broaden its focus from research to include technology development in an effort to begin to monetize the company's collection of proprietary technologies.

Eltron recently received the R&D 100 award for its invention of low-cost, high efficiency hydrogen separation membrane.

Continental Technologies fabricates and operates processing equipment for the parent company as well as other customers. They understand chemistry and science that forms the foundation of others' technology and know how to scale-up tech for successful commercialization, according to Harkins.

Eltron handles payroll, benefits and so on, and Continental Technologies does the engineering, design and fabrication.



Building skids for other companies is part of what Continental Technologies does. This was the "H25" project, which was built for the parent company Eltron Research & Development in Boulder, CO. Local companies Mitchco built the frame and Precision Tool and Die cut the frame.