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## Eco Waste lands NATO contract

Clean-burning waste incinerators can be moved where needed

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The Hamilton Spectator

BURLINGTON (Mar 31, 2009)

NATO will announce today it's awarding a \$4.5-million contract to Eco Waste Solutions to supply four clean-burning garbage incinerators that can be moved anywhere the military alliance stations troops.

Eco Waste, with offices and an assembly facility on Harvester Road, now supplies its systems to remote communities, mines and Canadian military bases. NATO has operations in Afghanistan, Darfur, Iraq and Kosovo.

President and CEO Steve Meldrum calls the contract "a very big deal" for his company, which has only 13 full-time staff. He says it's also good for steel fabricators and other suppliers, all in the Golden Horseshoe.

Harinder Takhar, Ontario's minister of small business and consumer services, is expected to be on hand for the announcement by the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency.

Meldrum says the NATO incinerators, to be delivered by the end of the year, are designed to fit in 20-foot (six-metre) cargo containers so they can be easily shipped to and from a central supply base, probably in Europe.

Each will handle the waste generated by a 500-person camp.

"The contract calls for four packaged, containerized units, complete with air pollution controls and emission monitors meeting European Union standards for emissions and water discharge, readily deployable to wherever NATO needs them -- jungles, mountains, deserts or the Arctic. They have to be able to withstand sandstorms, blizzards and tropical rain."

He said NATO wants to be more self-sufficient.

Eco Waste was founded in 1994 by Lucy Casacia and Frank Sherman, former steel industry engineers who patented a high-tech process to burn garbage cleanly and efficiently. Early sales were to an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico, an Alaskan tourist site and five animal shelters in Ontario.

Meldrum says he and two partners took over in 2005 and now market mainly to mines, remote communities and military customers in the Americas.

Eco Waste often works with large engineering companies that supply housing and other infrastructure for places such as the DeBeers Snap Lake diamond mine 220 kilometres northeast of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories.

Eco Waste builds incinerators that process waste in batches. Capacity ranges from a few hundred kilograms to 10 tonnes a day. They turn the waste into gas, then burn the gas to minimize emissions.

Meldrum says the technology is better than burying waste in landfills that require long-term maintenance and monitoring, "light years ahead" of open dumping and burning, and far cleaner than old incinerators like Hamilton's now-closed SWARU trash burner.

"People still think of incineration as an open box and a Bic lighter, but the technology and air pollution controls have advanced so far, there's no comparison. We don't say our solution is the answer to waste management. It's part of the answer, part of an overall strategy."

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