



The Vanderstad facility at Langbank where 60 new production staff and a second shift will be added to meet growing demand.

Vaderstad adding to staff to meet growing demand

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Vaderstad is undergoing a major ramping up of production, adding 60 production employees and a second production shift at its Langbank production facility, which manufactures tillage, drilling and planting machinery for the ag industry. Additional support staff will be added at the Langbank facility as well.

Jason Wasylyk, Director of Operations for Vaderstad, which employs 200 people in Canada, says production is ramping up because of booming sales.

"Today we're at 200 people across Canada. There's a Swedish division and a Canadian division and now a U.S. division that was announced this week," says Wasylyk.

"This production ramp up will add an additional 60 production staff (in Canada) and then some support staff around it, as well as a second shift because we are at capacity on the single shift.

"2020 wasn't a great year because of harvest 2019. But our volume from 2020 to 2021 increased almost 90 per cent, and we're expecting another 40 to 45 per cent increase this year."

Wasylyk says most of Vaderstad's units are being sold in Canada, and seem well suited for Western Canadian conditions.

"We've got some distribution in Australia as well out of

this plant but it doesn't amount to a whole lot today," he says. "So it's mostly Canada. Our distribution footprint grew over the course of the last little while, so that certainly helped, but I think the real reason is that it is a quality machine and performs well, in the Western Canadian conditions in particular."

He says of the 60 new production staff, Vaderstad will be looking for people with a variety of skillsets.

"Welders, painters, assemblers, warehouse folks, shippers, receivers—it's really the full gamut because you're adding a second shift, so you're duplicating what you have," he says.

He says Vaderstad is focusing on sourcing the new employees locally.

"Our intent is always to focus local for a number of reasons," he says. "We're a little bit remote. You and I might not think so, but when you get somebody coming from a city or from somewhere else, it's a little bit remote. So our intention is always to find people locally. With some of the skilled trades, it's a little bit tough because you're competing with oil and gas, and you're competing with the mines primarily for some of those more skilled areas."

Wasylyk says most of Vaderstad's staff live fairly close to the facility at Langbank, in communities like Carlyle, Moosomin, Whitewood, Kipling, and Broadview.

"We always say draw a 50 km circle around the plant and that's really our catchment area," he says.

Wasylyk says one of the biggest challenges of having to bring people in from out of area is finding enough housing for them in the local area.

"That's probably one of the major challenges quite honestly," he says. "You're trying to recruit people of course, but then you've got to put them somewhere and it's not always that easy. It might be the biggest challenge. There are many challenges, but that one, it impedes your ability to grow in some sense."

Once the additional staff are in place, Vaderstad will have two full shifts running at its plant.

"We'll have a day shift that runs from 6:30 am to 3 pm and an evening shift from 3:30 pm to midnight," says Wasylyk. "And D shift will be slightly higher in head count just strictly because of some of the support functions, but from a production perspective it really is two identical shifts."

He says the added shift will not quite double Vaderstad's production.

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Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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Vaderstad adding to staff to meet growing demand

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"We'll still have a little bit of room left but some other things need to happen to create that kind of top up capacity," he says.

After the second shift is added, Wasylyk says Vaderstad does have some room to further expand its operations at the Langbank facility, although it wouldn't be easy without an expansion.

"We could add another 30 per cent of capacity, but 30 per cent becomes more difficult. Beyond that, we'd probably be looking at an expansion if we needed to grow further," he says. "But that's not in the cards today."

He says Vaderstad is approaching the current production ramp-up in three phases.

"There's a ramp up scheduled for August, another in September and another one in November. The reason for this is because we've got a very, very strong order book currently, and all of it needs to be produced by next April. So these are all

spring 2022 machines."

Despite being in a rural area, Wasylyk says Vaderstad has been successful in adding and maintaining staff in the past and they expect the same in this situation.

"It's a bit of a struggle, but I think we've been very successful. Our turnover rate is very, very small, relatively speaking. It maybe says that we're doing something right," he says.

Wasylyk says in the future, Vaderstad will be looking to diversify its products, and the Langbank facility will continue to be part of that process.

"The plant will always be here, the plant will always produce," he says. "The challenge right now is that we don't really have the diversity in product mix that we'd like. One of Vaderstad's core values is innovation, so there are a number of projects ongoing and a bunch of effort focused on diversification of the product line."

Aside from its staff at the Langbank plant, Wasylyk says Vaderstad has staff

around Canada, but most of those staff are engaged in sales and service.

"We have an Eastern Canadian operation but it's not manufacturing. It's just sale service. We also have people in north and south Alberta, north and south Saskatchewan, a little bit into Manitoba and

then the east. We service B.C. through Quebec with our products. And then there's a regional office in Regina as well that houses some engineering staff, again some sales and services staff, and some other support functions—some of our IT resources are there for instance."

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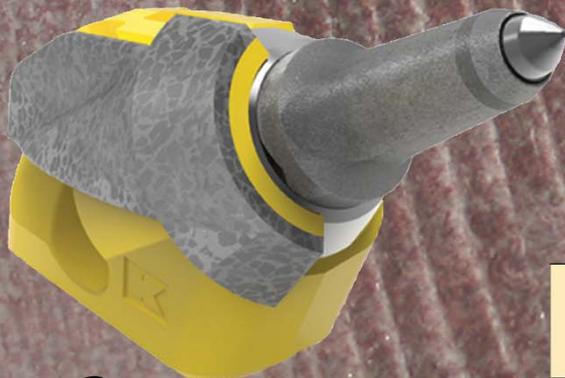
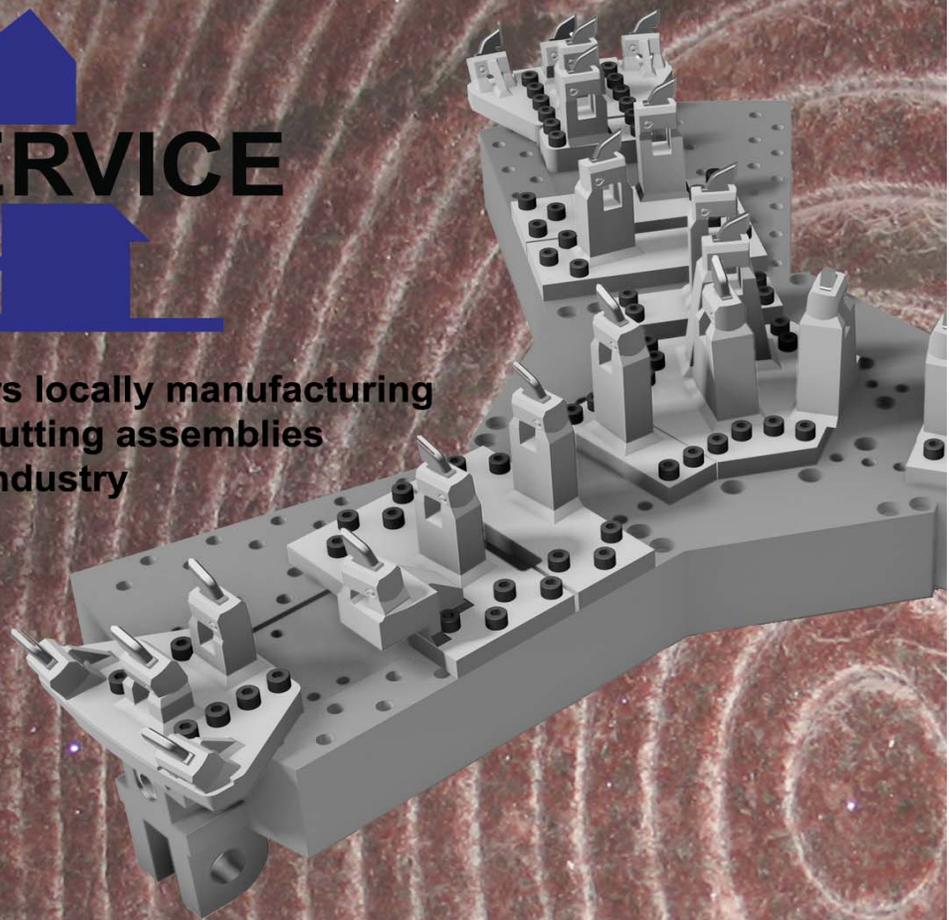
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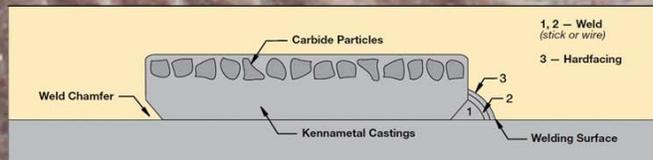
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Prairie pipeline exercise anything but routine

Ensuring the ongoing safety of the critical energy infrastructure we all rely on to fuel our economy is a job that must be done—no matter the circumstances. Such was the case when Enbridge held an emergency response training exercise along the Souris River in the Town of Wawanesa, Manitoba on May 19.

Activity was focused along the river within the town. A command post and staging area were set up and a flat-bottomed boat launched to deploy an oil containment boom over a span of some 500 feet across the shallow river. No actual crude oil products were used in the exercise scenario.

“The exercise was designed to test Enbridge’s ability to respond to an oil spill near our Mainline pipeline system,” explains Stephen Lloyd, Manager, Emergency Management. “In addition to meeting a regulatory requirement of our Line Three Replacement Program, this supports our ongoing effort to continuously practice and improve our emergency response capability on all waterways in proximity to pipeline operations and populated regions.”

Preparing for a potential emergency is a routine part of pipeline operations, but the Manitoba exercise was anything but routine. For example, the recent tightening of provincial Covid-19 guidelines on outdoor gatherings (from 10 to five persons) and restrictions on out-of-province visitors led Enbridge to revise and adapt its plans for the exercise.

“We had tremendous support from the RM (Oakland-Wawanesa) and the town, including the fire department and the school next door to the exercise,” says Steve Loney, Senior Advisor, Community and Indigenous Engagement based out of Winnipeg. “People were warm and welcoming and waved at us when we were driving by in our company vehicles.”

“Overall, it was a positive and highly collaborative exercise,” Loney says, noting an Indigenous cultural assessment and blessing the day prior and the use of Indigenous monitors onsite.

Participants followed provincial public health guidelines and Enbridge’s Covid-19 Safe Work Protocol which includes, proper social distancing, hand hygiene, cleaning guidelines, a pre-access health assessment and other key activities. Covid-safe measures were in place to protect the public, Enbridge personnel and contractors during the exercise.

“Only those essential to running the exercise

in the field, 30 people, were able to be onsite,” explains Lloyd. “We divided these individuals into six ‘pods’ of five each to comply with the current maximum limit on outdoor gatherings in Manitoba. During the exercise, the pods communicated by radio—at any given time, only one pod was on the river, in the staging area or Incident Command Centre.”

Another 160 people (Enbridge employees and invited observers) participated virtually via their home or office computers including the Province of Manitoba, Natural Resources Canada, the Canada Energy Regulator, and leadership of several Indigenous nations, governments and groups. They were able to see and hear Enbridge personnel responding to the simulated emergency scenario and tune into a separate online channel which guided them through what was happening, including live drone footage of the field activity.

“The pandemic created some unique logistical challenges that we were able to address and ultimately benefit from in managing this exercise,” concludes Sam Munchhof-Swain, Manager, Community and Indigenous Engagement with Enbridge. “While nothing can replace face-to-face communication, implementing new ways to observe these events through the use of technology is something we expect to deploy more in the future, whether out of necessity or not.”



Indigenous participation included a cultural assessment the day prior to the exercise. From left to right: Elder Dave Daniels (Long Plain First Nation), Enbridge intern Alyssa Iskierski (Manitoba Metis Federation) and Mike Sutherland (Peguis First Nation).



Above: Boom deployment across the Souris River, captured by a drone.



Above: A flat-bottomed boat was used to navigate the shallow river.

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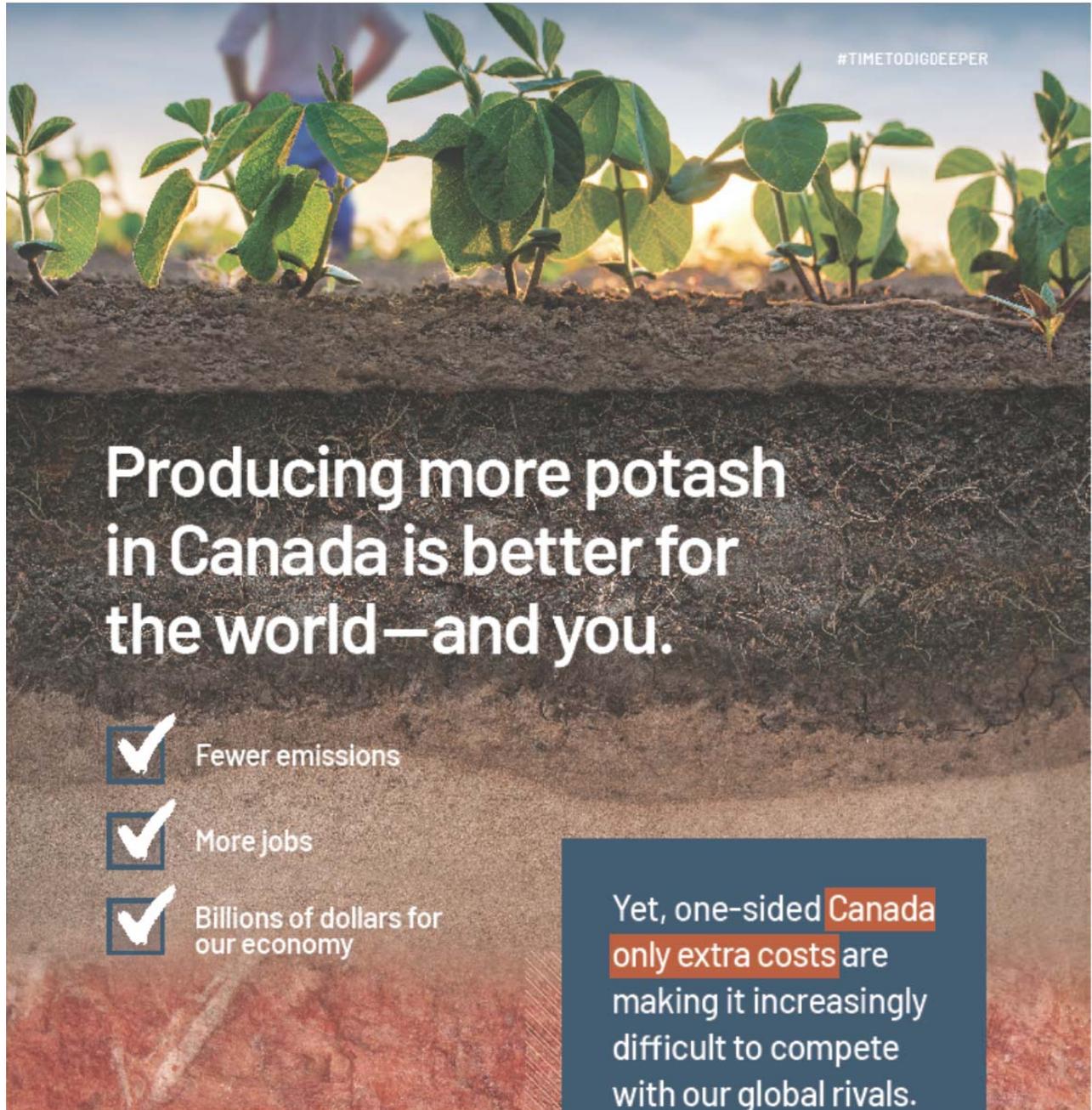
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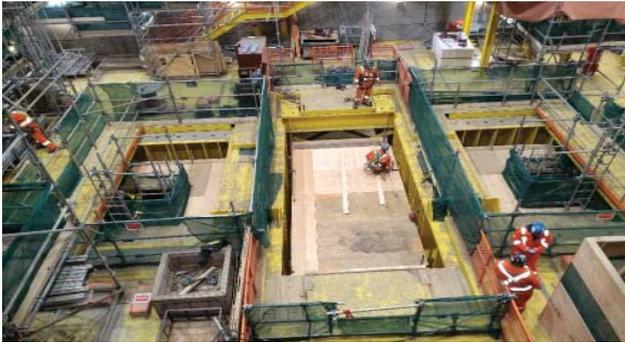
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Construction activity on the Koepe hoist floor

Esterhazy transition:

One year to a fully operational K3

K3 south shaft headframe readies for hoist and skip installations

When the south shaft headframe is fully operational at the Mosaic Esterhazy potash mine in March 2022, it will double the hoisting capacity at K3. Each shaft will have 36,000 tons per day hoisting capacity—for a total of 72,000 tons.

Mosaic says it is making significant progress constructing the second shaft headframe at K3—outfitting it with piping, electrical trays, cable, lighting and other components required for it to become fully operational in March 2022. This more than 300-foot-tall 'south' headframe stands over a shaft that will transport primarily rich potash ore, while the 'north' shaft also transports people and materials.

During the first half of 2021, each steel floor is assembled at ground level in a modular fashion and then raised to their final position using a hydraulic jacking system. The installation of the large Koepe hoist, an elevator and all the electrical/mechanical infrastructure occurs concurrently. The next big milestone will be rope-up and installation of the large 60-ton skips—which will occur early fall, with commissioning to follow.

Ramping up production at K3

Mosaic continues to break records at K3, setting a new daily tonnage record in February. Mosaic Esterhazy is now consistently hoisting around 30,000 tons of ore per day through the 'north' shaft and expects the daily ton average to continue increasing as they move into the second half of the year.

Underground work continues on the south surge and coarse ore bins and on the mainline conveyor systems—all necessary components as we continue to ramp up production. The miner assembly team sent its sixth four-rotor mining machine to start cutting underground at K3 in January, and their first two-rotor mining machine left the shop in February to be used for development. Mosaic expects to add one more mining machine to the K3 fleet in April and will build three more to deploy when the south head frame becomes operational by mid-2022.

Testing of a new automated "brattice" (vent curtain) installer for the mining machines is complete, and work is now focused on continuing verification of the ore grade analyzer at one of their four-rotor miners. This will set the stage for Mosaic to begin full first-pass automation later this year, at which time they will be utilizing the full system of autonomous steering for all three passes along with automated installation of the hardware system.

Transitioning from K1 and K2 to K3

Mosaic's teams are winding down K1 and employees are moving into other roles, but K1 will be kept viable as a second point of egress for K2 until both K1 and K2 shafts are decommissioned in 2022.

As production picks up from K3, Mosaic continues to transition the rest of the Esterhazy footprint to shift underground mining at K1 and K2 over to K3.

Everything in that footprint—including miner automation control, data reporting, ore flow and emergency response—will be operated from a new Integrated Operations Center (IOC). Housed at K3, this new IOC is being designed and built to allow Mosaic to monitor and manage Esterhazy's entire ore flow process—from underground and up to the mills—from one technology-enabled 'hub.'

Design for the new IOC is currently being finalized, with the expectation that it will be up and running in 2022.

Safety top priority

Mosaic says they remain vigilant in their Covid-19 response and are providing training, resources and other support to help keep their people safe during this pandemic and beyond.

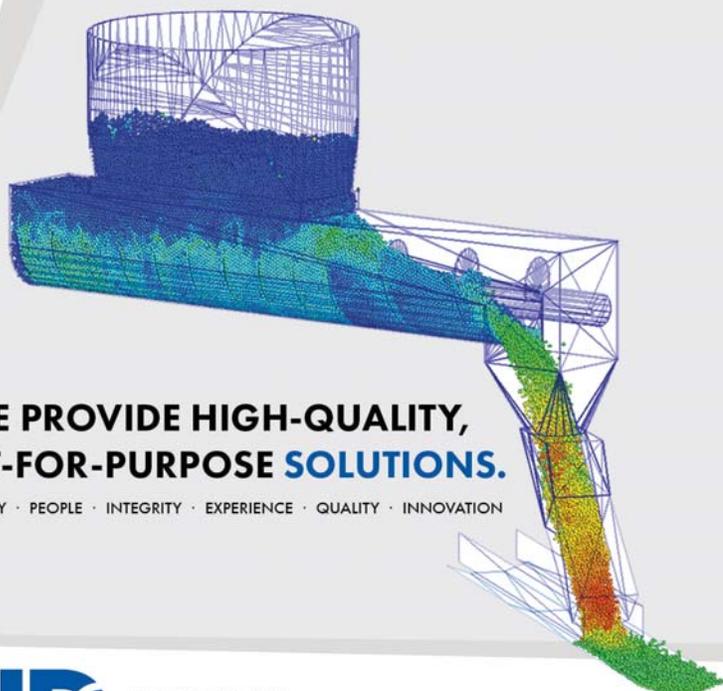
"Safety will continue to be our number one priority as we enter the last year on this decade-long, \$3 billion-dollar project to build the world's largest and most competitive potash mine," Mosaic said in a statement.



When the south shaft headframe is fully operational in March 2022, it will double the hoisting capacity at K3. Each shaft will have 36,000 tons per day hoisting capacity—for a total of 72,000 tons.



Esterhazy's Integrated Operations Center (IOC) is being designed and built to allow Mosaic to monitor and manage the entire ore flow process—from underground and up to the mills—from one technology-enabled 'hub.'



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Mill refurbishment, underground bins, power generation plant at Nutrien Rocanville:

Contractor workforce to peak at 1,000 this year

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Work is under way on refurbishment of the original mill at Nutrien Rocanville. The start of the project was delayed by Covid-19 last year. Work is also under way on replacement of some underground components including the raw ore bins, and on development of a power generating plant on the site.

The projects will bring a lot of contractors to the site, with the number peaking at between 500 and 1,000 for each of the next three years.

"We celebrated our 50th anniversary back in September and we still have areas of our operating plants that are from day one," said Nutrien Rocanville General Manager Shannon Rhynold.

"We did the major expansion and we brought a new mill on line in 2016 but the old mill—mill one as we call it—still has areas of operation and portions of it that are still original.

"So when you look at the projects over the next few years, the big one that we're doing on site is a refurbishment of our original mill. Each time we take out some of the old technology and put in something new there's a potential for investment. We question how do we improve on this. With a lot of the projects that we are doing, it's a bit of a chess match. We're trying to make sure we can keep the operation running while replacing equipment. We use our turn around strategy (when operations cease for a few weeks for major maintenance) to do tie-ins. A lot of the work that's going on out here right now is some of that replacement work. It's things like raw ore bins and ore galleries and new electrical and the re-feed of all those cables from new buildings into old infrastructure. We have two production hoist systems as well and one of them was upgraded during the expansion, the old original one still has the original electrical drive components. So we're doing an upgrade this year to upgrade our hoists to modern drive technology. So that will be another one that we tie in during our turn around this year."

Multi-year project

So how big of a project is this?
"It's going to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, and we're going to spend that over numerous years," says Rhynold. "Easily over the next five years we're going to spend a couple hundred million dollars investing into just the refurbishment of our mill. On top of that if there are investment opportunities that make sense, if you come up against a bottleneck opportunity where a new piece of equipment can solve an issue, there could be some ad-



The Nutrien potash mine at Rocanville. Work is underway on a multi-year refurbishment of the original mill, replacement of underground raw ore bins, and the addition of a power generating plant. The contractor workforce will peak at between 500 and 1,000 for the next three years.

ditional costs.

"There's a lot of work on the surface, and when I look at the underground, we run into some similar issues. We've got our original shaft area. It's still there. We're doing a lot of work now on replacing the original bins underground and this is a massive undertaking that requires a lot of mining, a lot of rehab mining, but also we've created three new ore storage bins underground. Those are currently being cut with a plan to tie those in and connect everything again by the turn around 2022 window."

Self-generation project

Nutrien is also investing in a power generation plant at the Rocanville site. Trans-Gas installed a gas pipeline to its facility near Moosomin to the Rocanville mine site last summer.

"We put in the gas line last year. We didn't delay that one with Covid-19 but we did push off the Self Gen project itself, and now we're back into site prep and we have the foundations laid for the generators when they do arrive," says Rhynold. "Those generators are actually on their way to Canada. I believe they're on the ocean right now as we speak. They will be arriving on site this summer, sometime towards the end of June, and they'll be placed on the concrete pads and we'll be completing the work to actually build the building around it once they arrive. We'll get them on the pads, we'll build the building and we'll start the electrical tie in

during our turn around this year as well, when we can shut down the power.

"The commissioning of the generation project will be next year. The project schedule has it ending mid 2022, although we're confident we can bring it on ahead of that. The gas line is done, it's sitting there, it's ready to be tied into. We'll do the electrical tie ins during our turnaround this year and then it's just a matter of getting the training and commissioning under way. We're budgeting and planning to turn it on in 2022."

Crews building up as work progresses

"We always see a build up of contractors particularly as we get close to our turn around," says Rhynold. "Throughout a big part of the year we're carrying probably 200 contractors per day on average throughout the year and as we ramp up closer to our turn around, which will happen mid-September and October this year, we'll peak likely around 1,000. One of the challenges that we always see and we try to work with the project team is just on 'where do you put everybody?'"

"We reach out and we work with the RM and we make them aware of the numbers and we reach out to all the hotels and campgrounds and provide a list of all of the places to stay within a 100 km radius. It gets tight, so we hit that peak and it may only be for a week or two during the turnaround when you're trying to get all the major tie ins done, but those are

big numbers and we see it on our parking lots and we see it on our communities. It's something that we are cognizant of and do try to make sure that people are aware that there is this flood of contract employees coming."

Some crews have been in the area since early spring.

"I think you're seeing it build up now," said Rhynold. "The self gen group, the teams working on that, they really started to mobilize at the end of March into April and we've seen a bit of a bump in their numbers, just in the last month or so, as construction ramps up and prep ramps up for the delivery of those generators. Other projects will be similar. You'll start to see in July and August, that ramp up occur, but we really don't peak until you get into the turn around itself and that's when it's full out, everyone's on site, the plant is down for that four to five week window, and day and night you're trying to maximize as much work as you can.

"It gets tight. The capacity's there for 1,200 to 1500 people within 100 km. That's filling hotels, in Saskatchewan and Manitoba all the way up to Virden. Within the Nutrien network we try to offset our turnaround so that labor is available but we also try to make sure we're somewhat offset with what Mosaic does, so we're not having all the contractors coming at the same time, so the contractors can go between sites and plan to be here a little longer if there's work at both operations."

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Sask raises \$1.9 million in revenue from April oil and gas public offering

Saskatchewan's public offering of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights held Tuesday, April 6, 2021, generated \$1,925,873.51 in revenue for the province.

This is the first of six oil and gas public offerings for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The Estevan area was the major focus for bid activity, with leases within the region receiving both the highest bonus bid for a parcel of land as well as the highest dollars per hectare on a lease.

The highest bonus bid received on a parcel in this offering was \$324,786.00 (or \$627.00 per hectare) for a lease in the Estevan area. This lease totalling 518,000 hectares was awarded to Cougar Creek Land Ltd. and is prospective for oil in the Bakken Formation.

The highest dollars per hectare received in this offering was for a 64.8-hectare lease in the Estevan area by Crescent Point Energy Corp. They bid \$220,554.04, or \$3,406.24 per hectare, for this parcel that is prospective for oil also in the Bakken Formation.

In total, the Estevan area brought in \$1,631,515.03 for 23 parcels encompassing 4,079.254 hectares, while the Kindersley area brought in \$196,691.89 for 11 leases encompassing 2,489.006 hectares. Lloydminster and Swift Current were the other two areas each bringing in \$64,574.16 for 420.878 hectares, and \$33,092.43 for 259,000 hectares, respectively.

The scheduled date for the next public offering is June 1, 2021.

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Nutrien Rocanville contractor workforce to peak at 1,000 this year

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Projects for next three years

2021 to 2023 will all be busy construction years. "I would say 2021 to 2023, we're going to see similar levels with peaks of 500 to 1,000 contractors on site," said Rhynold. "We're hitting on some of those big projects like raw ore bins, ore galleries as part of this re-furb to our old mill. The re-furb plan stretches into 2023 and we try to level the spending over that time. I would guess for the next couple years we're going to see this level of activity on our site, and in 2024 or 2025 we start to see the decline. The major components of the re-furb will be done, so the numbers do start to drop a little bit at that point."

Plan in works for two years

"We've been planning the re-furb for a couple of years," says Rhynold. "We actually were ready to execute on it last year and so that raw ore bin, the ore gallery were projects that we deferred from last year into this year."

"With any project within a company like Nutrien there's a certain amount of capital for all the sites. We really break down the project, we follow the certain buckets and you're always going to be allocated a certain amount of sustaining capital which is really meant to protect the integrity of your assets. That's a given."

"There is the other aspect though, when you look at things like self gen, that's an investment. That is investment dollars that you compete for within the network and within the organization as a whole. And within those, you look at what value are we going to generate. When we look at self gen for us, there are many reasons to do it. The first reason really is, it's the right thing to do and I think our ability to take natural gas and generate electricity from that, it really is going to reduce our emissions, our carbon footprint is going to go down. You're eliminating that requirement for coal fired power, buying from the grid. It becomes more efficient for us, it's better for the environment and it is cheaper, it will save us money and build efficiencies to burn natural gas to generate that electricity versus buying it off the grid. It also fits very nicely within Nutrien's overall plan—we want to help reduce emissions. So with this project we reduce our carbon footprint by not buying that coal-fired power, and also build efficiency and cost savings."

Rocanville Nutrien's cornerstone

"Rocanville's a critical part of Nutrien's potash network," says Rhynold. "We have a great network, we've got six very flexible low cost mines, but since the expansion finished here in late 2016, Rocanville really has become the cornerstone for the network. I've heard people call it the flagship. We continue to produce, since that expansion, 40 to 45 per cent of the network's annual pro-

duction and we do it as the low cost producer. We are the flagship, we're the anchor. We drive safety, we drive innovation, and continuous improvement for the company. "Across Nutrien, we are the low-cost producer, but credit to my peers at the other sites, they're pushing us. They're all bringing their costs down as Nutrien becomes more efficient and decides to be strategic in how we run our operations. We're really getting pushed. Some of the operations have had the odd month where they've beat

us. Overall we're still holding that position but it's important to keep focusing on continuous improvement. Nutrien talks a lot about next generation potash and the things that fall into that. And those are things like automation and self-generation and advanced process control in our mills, and those are the things we try to take a lead on, but the network itself is pushing that direction. So we are the low cost producer right now and we're going to do our best to hold onto that position."

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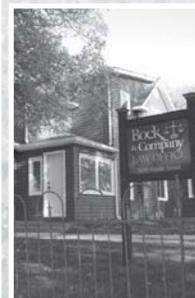
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SPRING 2021 Mining, Energy & Manufacturing

Oil and gas sector soars over aerospace, auto industries

Higher wages and better productivity contribute to an industry that's a dominant part of Canada's economy and its GDP

It's hard for anyone but mathematicians and economists to conceptualize numbers in the billions. To get around that problem, and as a prelude to comparing major Canadian industries, let's start with a smaller number and a question: How would you like to make \$2,740 every week?

If you answered "Yes," you won't appear on a television game show or win a raffle.

Instead, you've agreed that \$2,740 is a decent weekly income. It also happens to be the average weekly earnings in the oil and gas extraction sector in 2019. (That involves getting oil and natural gas out of the ground, but not pipeline work and other activity related to the industry, such as in refineries.)

The weekly wages in the aerospace and



Mark Milke & Lennie Kaplan



automotive sectors (product and parts manufacturing in both) are \$1,534 and \$1,427, respectively. Those are both decent incomes, above the \$1,029 average weekly wage across all Canadian industries.

The automotive sector pays 39 per cent better than the average wage across all industries, the aerospace sector pays 49 per cent more, and the oil and gas extraction sector pays 166 per cent better.

And there are other ways to compare the three industries, which is where we return to numbers in the billions.

In 2014, when Canada's oil and gas extraction sector was firing on all economic cylinders, it was worth almost \$110 billion in nominal gross domestic product (GDP). By 2017, the latest year available for this specialized data from Statistic Canada, GDP for oil and gas extraction had dropped to just under \$63 billion.

Even in a slump year, Canada's oil and gas sector in 2017 was worth over three times the nominal GDP of the motor vehicle and parts manufacturing sector (\$18.8 billion) and nearly seven times the aerospace manufacturing and parts sector (\$9.4 billion).

The oil and gas extraction sector amounted to 5.9 per cent of nominal Canadian GDP in 2014 and 3.1 per cent in 2017. That was still about three times the automotive sector (0.9 per cent of GDP) and nearly seven times the aerospace sector (0.5 per cent of GDP).

Employment in oil and gas extraction in 2017 stood at 55,853 direct jobs. The motor vehicle parts and manufacturing industry

employed more, at 74,297, with aerospace employing fewer, at 51,349 people.

Why is oil and gas extraction such a large part of GDP, even in a slump year, but employs 25 per cent fewer people than the automotive sector?

Because labour productivity is extremely high in Canada's oil and gas extraction sector compared to other industries.

As we noted in a report on oil and gas labour productivity, higher productivity allows you to do more with less. Think of farming 500 years ago—the 1565 painting by Flemish artist Pieter Bruegel the Elder, *The Harvesters*, shows workers gathering wheat and tying the stacks by hand.

Restart Canada's economic engine with oil and gas by Tim McMillan

The modern oil and gas extraction industry in Canada is like farming—doing much more with less. Twenty people cutting wheat by hand and bundling it would be far less productive than 20 people driving tractors over much more land. Much more is produced with much less.

Other industries also contribute significantly to the Canadian economy and jobs, but oil and gas extraction contributes significantly more to GDP than either the automotive or aerospace sectors. It also pays significantly more than both.

Mark Milke and Lennie Kaplan are with the Canadian Energy Centre, an Alberta government corporation funded in part by carbon taxes. They are authors of the report, *Fueling Canada's Economy: Comparing the Oil and Gas Extraction Sector to the Automotive and Aerospace Sectors*.



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Enbridge's first solar self-power project in Canada between Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. Alberta Solar One, as it's known, supplies a portion of power to the Enbridge Mainline pipeline network, which includes the Line 3 replacement pipeline. The facility features 36,000 solar panels and has a capacity of 10.5 megawatts, equivalent to meeting the energy needs for about 3,000 homes and offsetting 12,000 tonnes of carbon annually.

Enbridge greening the pipeline grid with solar

Solar project now supplies power to the Enbridge Mainline pipeline which runs through southern Saskatchewan

The southern prairies see greater than 2,400 hours of sunshine annually, compared to between 1,200 and 2,000 hours in the rest of Canada. It may not seem like it at times, but the prairies typically see some sunshine about 320 days every year.

The vast, open spaces of the northern plains continue to support a rich agricultural economy but, increasingly, that abundant sunshine is being harnessed to backstop a burgeoning solar power industry.

In late March, Enbridge opened its first solar self-power project in Canada between Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. Alberta Solar One, as it's known, now supplies a portion of power to the Enbridge Mainline pipeline network, which includes the recently completed Line 3 Replacement pipeline.

The \$20-million facility features 36,000 solar panels and has a capacity of 10.5 megawatts, equivalent to meeting the energy needs of about 3,000 homes and offsetting some 12,000 tonnes of carbon annually. By supplying Enbridge's Mainline power requirements with renewable electricity, the solar farm displaces power generated from carbon emitters like coal-fired power plants.

"These types of projects fit into our larger growth plans to reduce emission intensity by 35 per cent and be net zero by 2050," says Vern Yu, Executive Vice President and President Liquids Pipelines. "To help get there, we're using solar self-power to generate electricity for our op-

erations, modernizing our systems to improve efficiency and advancing other technologies. While the new facility is the first of its kind for Enbridge in Canada, it's part of a broader program the company is initiating to self-supply a growing portion of its energy needs from re-

newable resources."

"This project is a win-win for Enbridge's power team as we continue to grow our renewable energy portfolio and support Enbridge's sustainability goals," adds Matthew Akman, Enbridge's Senior Vice President of Strategy and Power. "We're excited to

see our first Canadian self-power project come online, and we will continue to invest in opportunities across North America that generate

energy to power our operations."

Including Alberta Solar One, Enbridge is looking at approximately 15 to 20 self-power projects for its

liquids pipelines pump stations and gas pipelines compressor stations along the mainline for a potential investment of about \$500 million.

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SPRING 2021 Mining, Energy & Manufacturing

Record subsurface mineral public offering in April

The Government of Saskatchewan's first subsurface mineral Crown disposition public offering of the 2021-22 fiscal year was held on Monday, April 19, and raised \$2,448,936.17 in revenue for the province. This is the largest, single-sale since the province adopted the subsurface mineral public offering process in 2018.

One hundred and seventeen (117) subsurface mineral permit blocks totaling 224,405.715 hectares were posted. One hundred and six (106) permits consisting of 212,912.965 hectares received bonus bids totalling \$2,448,936.17.

The highest bid received in this offering was \$262,320.71 from ROK Resources Inc. This 5,829.349 hectare block is located east of Weyburn and is prospective for brine minerals such as lithium. Synergy Land Services Ltd. acquired the most land with a bid of \$557,277.00 to acquire 22 permits totalling 39,725.180 hectares.

Held in April, August, and December

of every year, the subsurface mineral public offering is a competitive bidding process allowing for the fair, orderly, and transparent disposition of subsurface mineral rights, which grants the disposition owner the right to explore for, and develop, subsurface minerals.

Subsurface minerals include natural mineral salts such as boron, calcium, lithium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, bromine, chlorine, fluorine, iodine, nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur, and their compounds, occurring more than 60 metres below the surface of the land. Potash is a potassium compound, and subsurface minerals dissolved in subsurface geological formation waters are commonly referred to as brine minerals. Lithium is a brine mineral that is attracting attention most recently in regards to its use in lithium ion batteries.

The next scheduled date for a subsurface mineral public offering is August 23, 2021.



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SPRING 2021 Mining, Energy & Manufacturing

Sask manufacturing sales remain strong

Saskatchewan continues to show strong signs of economic recovery with manufacturing sales increasing by nearly 30 per cent year-over-year, the second highest percentage growth increase in Canada. Nationally, manufacturing grew by 14.8 per cent.

"Significant growth in leading economic indicators like manufacturing sales, wholesale trade and job growth show that our economy remains resilient and we are

showing strong signs of recovery," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Saskatchewan has one of the most competitive business environments in all of Canada and the recent large private sector investments worth billions of dollars will create more jobs and opportunities for Saskatchewan people."

On a month-over-month basis, seasonally adjusted manufacturing sales grew by 10.6 per cent, above the na-

tional average of 3.5 per cent. This was also the second highest percentage increase among the provinces. The value of manufacturing sales in March 2021 was \$1.49 billion.

Wholesale trade also recorded a seasonally adjusted increase of 13.2 per cent over last year, above the national average of 12.8 per cent. The value of wholesale trade in March 2021 was \$2.58 billion.

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