

Red China selling oilfield equipment

United Press International
HOUSTON — The mainland Chinese, Communists in-

terested in competing for export business in the capitalist West, are showing oilfield equipment for sale at the giant Offshore Technology Conference for the first time ever.

A spokesman said Wednesday one Chinese concern, EESCO Inc., has established a warehouse in Houston for oil pumping units made in the People's Republic of China.

"We began exporting pumping units to the United States in 1980 through a middleman, but have only recently decided to market directly in this country," EESCO Vice President M.S. Shu said.

Shu, who talks a lot like an American salesman, said the firm can "offer our units to U.S. companies at a price that is several thousand dollars lower per unit than comparable units from other countries."

He said several EESCO pumping units have been installed in oilfields in Oklahoma and Texas, including one recently sold to Conoco for an oilfield near Dallas. He said his organization hopes to sell 50 to 60 more units during OTC.

"We think we can capture a portion of the U.S. market because we work very hard and have very strict quality control, and because we can be very competitive," Shu said.

"We have relatively low labor costs and we also don't expect to make a big profit right away." The American Petroleum Institute recently certified EESCO's units as good enough in quality for use in API members' operations.

Shu said the units are made at EESCO's Baoji petroleum machinery manufacturing plant in Shaanxi, China. Shu said the United States is their only foreign market so far, but he said the organization hopes to move into South America.

"We have many more products in China we would like to export, and will be doing a lot more as we learn about the business community," Shu said.

Shu said EESCO's plant currently produces about 100 pumping units annually but expects to expand to meet market demand.

OTC, billed as the world's largest annual convention, includes exhibits that fill the Astrodome, the Astrohall, Astroarena and surrounding parking lots with products and services of 2,500 firms from 24 nations.

Warped

By Scott McCuller



Enzyme may help dissolve blood clots, doctor says

United Press International
HOUSTON — A cardiologist believes he can reverse some damage caused by heart attacks by giving patients with chest pains an enzyme to dissolve blood clots before they kill heart muscle.

"It is almost like a chance for a second go around," said Dr. Lance Gould, director of cardiology at the University of Texas Medical School and staff member at Hermann Hospital, Wednesday.

Gould said that immediately removing clots allows blood to be pumped into the oxygen-starved heart muscle to keep it alive.

Rather than treat the complications caused by heart attacks, Gould treats one of the causes of heart attacks — clots. He's been giving the treatment for 18 months.

Gould said many attacks occur when an artery, already partially blocked by a fatty cholesterol plaque, becomes completely closed when a blood clot moves into the artery.

He explained that by releasing a small amount of the enzyme streptokinase directly into the clogged heart artery through cardiac catheterization — a tube into the vessel — usually the clot will dissolve immediately.

Blood will then begin flowing through the vessel to feed the heart muscle.

The heart is not back to normal, however, because the plaque — the buildup that led to the clot — remains. But Gould said bypass surgery can be done soon afterwards to replace the clogged arteries with vessels grafted from the leg.

By dissolving the clot within

18 hours after chest pains start, a sign of a heart attack, and allowing the blood to circulate again, the heart muscle will be saved and scar tissue will not form.

"Longevity is associated with the amount of scar tissue on the heart and its pumping action," Gould said. "The less scar tissue, the better the heart will function."

Gould said a normal heart pumps approximately 50 percent of the blood in its chamber with each contraction.

Hearts in patients who have had only bypass surgery following a heart attack pump about 32 percent. But the pumping capacity in hearts after both treatments is about 45 percent, Gould said.

Presently 111 patients have had the procedure done at Hermann Hospital by Gould or Dr. Richard Smalling. Other re-

search is under way in Massachusetts, Virginia and Florida.

Gould said he was introduced to the use of the enzyme by a German physician, Dr. Peter Rentrop.

Streptokinase is not new. It has been used for many years to help dissolve clots and adenomas in other parts of the body.

The Food and Drug Administration has not approved a procedure for the general use of streptokinase, but the work done by Gould is under the auspices of the Federal Food and Drug Administration. Approval by the federal government is expected in another six months.

"It will be another 18 months before we are fairly secure knowing whether the combination of streptokinase and surgery improves survival," Gould said.

O'Hair predicts Reagan to get prayer in school

United Press International
AUSTIN — Atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair Thursday predicted President Reagan

will succeed within two years in passing a constitutional amendment to allow voluntary prayer in public schools.

O'Hair, president of the American Atheist Center, said Reagan's support of the amendment is an emotional ploy to

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votes for the Republican Party. "We have here an extremely reactionary president who cares nothing at all for the Constitution when it comes to gathering votes," O'Hair said. "I think they will have other tornad constitutional amendments in two years because it's too hard to organize atheists."

She said state legislators would be too fearful of reprisals to vote against the amendment permitting prayer in schools, and said she would raise the issue as a voluntary prayer issue.

"There is no voluntary prayer when a person is required to attend public school. If he does not do what the body else does," O'Hair said.

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