

CJS tubing goes stateside with its FLATpak coil product



Joe Reck grips a section of an early prototype of encapsulated coil tubing.

Lloydminster – Joe Reck and Collin Morris, the two principle owners of CJS Coiled Tubing Supply Ltd., were born in Canada but are in danger of acquiring American accents.

On their business cards, Reck, an owner/operator, and Morris, the president have found a growing market in the United States for the Flatpak tubing system they designed in 2007.

Morris should be jetting back from Holland soon after delivering a paper during the 3rd European Conference on Gas Well De-liquification Sept. 15-17 and manning a booth promoting the FLATpak.

The development of the FLATpak was expensive but worth it as the market for CJS's conventional coil tubing has stagnated during the industry slowdown.

"The new product is key to future growth," said Reck. "We are like any company. You have to diversify and find new methods.

"The conventional

coil market will come back when the markets turnaround but the Flatpak will definitely strengthen."

The FLATpak umbilical uses multiple coiled-tubing strings that are encapsulated in a plastic jacket to create one uniform, rectangular shaped matrix that can use a production conduit.

"Most of our customers are currently in the States but we have a lot of users in Canada as well," said Reck. "It's been used mostly for de-watering of gas using jet pumps or hydraulic submersibles.

The FLATpak can be configured to convey virtually any artificial lift system into an oil or gas well and can deploy pumps for cleanouts to remove liquid, sand or bitumen from filled wellbores.

"It's a multi-tubular conveyance system which means we can convey anything you like whether it's an electric submersible pump, an hydraulic pump, a single point gas lift, a dual point gas lift, a hybrid pump or a progressive cavity pump," explained Morris. "It's for putting things in the ground."

CJS Coiled Tubing is being used to de-liquefy low pressure, low rate stripper wells in southern and north-western Alberta and in a growing number of

states including Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas.

A stripper well is a well that can no longer produce on its own energy to evaporate its own well bore fluids. It's either no longer flowing or its production is restricted due to liquid loading.

"That market is extremely large," said Morris. "Some 60 per cent of North American gas production comes from stripper type wells.

"The market we are in – assuming the gas price comes back should be very profitable.

"The greatest potential is for coalbed methane beds and shale gas in some areas like the Barnett shale gas formation in Texas.

"We can do everything live. We don't have to snub or kill the well so we have a number of different advantages including costs. Intervention times are also lower since we don't need the service rig to kill the well.

"We are not like other coil companies that have service trucks. We don't have service trucks. We are a supply company.

"We supply products to the coil tubing industry. We don't perform any coil tubing services. We supply parts, coil tubing and FLATpak.

► Page C19



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Collin Morris fits the terminator cap to a wellhead made for the CJS FLATpak coil tubing while Joe Reck looks on.

New products are key to future growth

◀ Page C18

“Often we will go out in the field and help with the transitional learning curve but after three or four jobs, they don’t need us anymore.”

CJS Coiled Tubing will also be deploying its FLATpak tubing system on some new deep wells – 4,000 to 7,000 metres deep – in New Mexico, Wyoming, California and Colorado.

“We expect to have those in the ground by December,” said Morris.

Morris says the idea for the FLATpak came from a customer – Global Energy Services – that were having problems conveying their hydraulic submersible pump. It needed three tubulars to drive the pump and produce fluid to the surface.

“We went through a series of iterations and came up with the Flatpak,” said Morris. “Like any research and development, we went through several iterations and several tests and styles of pipe from round to triangle.

“The shapes were critical – the reason being – we were looking for something that was easy to use, easy and cheap to manufacture and could be manufactured locally – in Houston where our coil tubing is manufactured.”

CJS Coiled Tubing credits Lloydminster companies such as Sandpiper

Coiled Tubing Services, Danco Coiled Tubing Ltd, T-Rock Coiled for assisting with the research and development of the FLATpak.

Metatek Machining manufactures all of the company’s equipment including the wellhead units that go with the FLATpak.

Asked if it was good timing to develop a new product in 2007, Reck gave a yes and no answer.

“There is a lot of R and D,” he said. “A lot goes into a new product to prove it up. There were a lot of sleepless nights.”

For his part, Morris, believes conventional coil tubing will continue to be the standard for coil tubing. He also has high expectations for the FLATpak for stripper well de-liquifications.

“It may replace conventional tubing in some wells due to costs,” he said. “We are seeing that in upcoming gas well projects in Wyoming, Montana and New Mexico. There is also potential for other zones as they taper off and age.

The FLATpak’s potential for the heavy oil market could be realized as soon as a pump manufacturer comes up with a hydraulic submersible progressive cavity pump.

“We would need a pump of some sort to go on the end of it,” said Morris. “Once those pumps hit the market we will try them out.”



CJS president Collin Morris holds a dual 1 1/4-inch Flatpak designed for a jet pump.



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