

## Local Company Makes Good

*Special Report—John Campbell, RMOJ Vol. 84, No. 52, December 24, 2004-December 30, 2004*

Vortex Flow, LLC, a Denver company whose technology products improve oil and gas production, has won the Platts Global Energy “Newcomer of the Year” Award. The award recognizes companies for strategic excellence, growth, business performance and impact on their sector of the energy industry.

The Platts judging panel cited Vortex Flow for its “revolutionary fluid dynamics technology that . . . is offering cutting edge solutions to very large players that will extend reservoir life and potentially save its customers many millions of dollars.” The award was presented Dec. 10 in New York City.

Vortex Flow achieved this recognition through developing and marketing products that address long-time and serious problems in oil and gas production. The tools use a breakthrough technology that improves the flow of oil, gas and water through wells and pipelines. More than 600 Vortex Flow tools have been shipped throughout North America to some of the largest energy companies in the world. The company has also recently begun shipping units to overseas customers.

“Vortex Flow is offering solutions not available elsewhere in the industry,” said Brad Fehn, CEO and president of Vortex Flow. “This completely new technology, confirmed by university and government testing, is helping to sustain increased oil and gas production in a variety of situations. In many installations, the tools pay for themselves in 60 days or less. In some cases, the payback period is a few hours. Careful data collection in the field as well as laboratory tests demonstrate conclusively that Vortex Flow products improve production, delivering measurable economic value to the customer and the industry.”

Customer Acceptance has led to exponential growth for Vortex Flow, with the number of tools shipped more than tripling over three years.

Vortex is expanding into new markets and developing new products. Inquiries from potential customers in South America, Asia, the Middle East, and the North Sea are leading Vortex Flow to develop a global growth strategy for the next several years. The company is also currently developing new products for offshore and pipeline applications.

Vortex Flow is now providing eight different products for a wide range of installations, including surface line and downhole tubing applications. The Vortex Flow tools improve production by increasing the efficiency of fluid flows, helping more effectively move liquids in pipelines and tubing strings and by reducing or eliminating the accumulation of paraffin in pipelines.

The tool works by separating gas and liquids into a two-flow pattern with the liquids flowing in a spiral along the outer wall of the pipe and the gas flowing down the center. This vortex (rotating) pattern prevents liquids from dropping out of the flow and permits efficient movement over long distances and substantial changes in elevation and direction. This enhanced flow efficiency has also been observed to improve single-phase gas and single-phase liquid flows by reducing pipe wall friction and reducing pressure losses.

“Currently, our largest market is the application of our tools downhole,” Fehn continued. “The use of Vortex Flow technology downhole can lower the flowing bottom-hole pressure and ultimately increase recoverable reserves by increasing the amount of oil and gas that can be retrieved from any reservoir,” Fehn explained. “The Vortex Flow tools allow a production system to run at optimum efficiency for the life of the well. Our low-cost solutions allow companies to effectively deliquify wells with no ongoing maintenance.”

The Global Energy Award recognizes emerging companies for strategic excellence. Vortex Flow's primary strategy has been to develop a proven series of tools in the field one basin customer at a time. Working with customers to gather data on performance before and after installation of the tools has enabled Vortex to demonstrate effectiveness in the field, where production fluctuations are normal.

The company began by producing the Vortex Flow SX tools that are designed for use in surface pipelines. The SX works to protect the lines against accumulated fluids and paraffin buildup, two problems that reduce the flow of oil and gas to the end user.

"While the success of these tools was clear, operators and the Vortex team knew a greater opportunity was available by bringing the tools to a downhole setting," said Fehn. "The greatest pressure loss in oil and gas production occurs in the vertical tubing string, so the team created the Vortex Flow DX series of tools that can be used in wells as much as 13,000 feet deep."

A variation of the downhole tool, the Vortex Flow DXR, improves fluid flow through oil and gas wells without the need to pull the tubing for installation. "We listened to customers who bought the DX tool, went back to the drawing board and designed the DXR to meet the customer's need to avoid the expense of pulling the tubing by utilizing a slickline approach," Fehn noted. "The DXR is now our most popular product."

Vortex Flow, LLC is an oil and gas service company founded in 2001 that develops technology products that improve production in pipelines and oil and gas well tubing strings. For more information, call Vortex Flow at 720-227-0350 or visit [www.vortexflowllc.com](http://www.vortexflowllc.com)

*Editor's Note: Our congratulations to Vortex Flow on this award. The company's technology was first highlighted in an RMOJ article back in June of 2002, Vol. 82, No. 25. The downhole application was explained in an article published in October of 2003, Vo. 83, No. 45.*

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