



A cooperative effort of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Recycling Works

Volume 16, Number 1

Winter 2010

Metech Recycling Expands Operations in North Carolina

by Matt Todd, Recycling Business Development Specialist

Electronics recycling is a rapidly growing industry. As the industry has matured over the past few years, there have been many mergers and acquisitions, creating larger networks for collection, processing and marketing.

Metech Recycling has recently expanded its national recycling footprint and processing capabilities. Metech International and Guaranteed Recycling Xperts merged in April 2009 to form Metech Recycling, which specializes in secure and responsible electronic recycling.

The company now operates eight facilities in 500,000 square feet of building space

across the country. Metech Recycling maintains operations in California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Carolina and Utah.

Last spring, all company facilities were named "Qualified e-Stewards" by the Basel Action Network. E-Stewards are leading North American electronics recyclers who are qualified as upholding the highest standard of environmental and social responsibility. Metech Recycling has also achieved ISO 9001 and 14001 certification.

Chris Ryan, the new president of Metech Recycling, has been with the company in various capacities for many years.

"Metech started with a focus on the precious metals part of the business, and then began

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CRA
 20th Annual
 Conference
 & Trade Show
 RECYCLING MEANS BUSINESS

See page 2 for details!



Monitors and televisions await processing at Metech's Creedmoor facility.

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working with corporate clients such as telecom companies to provide responsible end-of-life recycling services,” said Ryan. “Our recent merger with GRX has expanded our focus into the office and residential sector.”

With the added stream of consumer-generated material, including fallout from the digital television conversion, Metech has an interest in securely controlling the most problematic component of the consumer e-scrap material stream – cathode ray tube glass. Each CRT (depending on its size) contains about four to eight pounds of lead.

Metech Recycling is responding to this demand by expanding its capacity to efficiently and securely process 10 million pounds of CRT glass per year.

“The benefit of having increased CRT glass processing in-house is to ensure CRTs are converted into clean, sorted commodities before the material leaves our control,” states Ryan.

The new facility that will initially serve as an internal CRT processing outlet for the company is located in Creedmoor. The CRT processing operation is housed in 120,000 square feet of flex space, within an old manufacturing facility.

After manual dismantling to reclaim the wire, scrap metal, circuit board and plastic housing, the stripped-down CRT is sent to the glass processing area. Here the CRT is cut to separate the panel glass from the funnel glass (leaded). The metal shadow mask is removed, and the segregated glass streams are run through a dry-scrubbing process to remove coatings and crush the glass. In this form the “cleaned” glass becomes a more attractive commodity. Through this process, the volume of glass managed as leaded glass (funnel glass) is significantly lowered, creating more value for Metech.

In addition to Metech’s Creedmoor operations, the company also has a processing center located in Durham. This site mainly serves as an end-of-life dismantling center for contract customers such as Verizon, Lucent Technologies and others. The Durham location has been open a little more than a year, and currently employs 20, working out of a 30,000 to 40,000-square-foot facility.

A majority of the material the Durham operation handles is telecom gear, generating a high percentage of printed



Dry scrubbers on Metech’s glass processing line remove CRT coatings and crush the glass, resulting in a cleaner product and valuable commodity.

circuit boards, wire and scrap metal from the nearly one million pounds of e-scrap that is processed per month. The small amounts of CRTs that may find their way to this facility are diverted to the monitor processing operation in Creedmoor.

Plans for the future are still evolving as Metech settles into its new North Carolina facilities. Looking ahead, Metech plans to develop a service market in the area, offering collection and processing to North Carolina businesses and local governments. They will also look to add other operations in addition to monitor processing at the Creedmoor location. This all means more jobs and more competition for responsible e-scrap recycling in North Carolina.

For more information, contact Chris Ryan of Metech at (866) 479-4920, or visit www.metechrecycling.com.

NC BioMassTrader Takes Off

Launched in late 2009, NC BiomassTrader is designed to facilitate the development of biomass markets in North Carolina and increase job creation in the state’s biomass economy (see ad next page). Recent listings include a “wanted” listing for swine waste, and used fryer oil is listed in the “available” category.

Contact Brian Rosa at (919) 715-6524 or Tom Rhodes at (919) 715-6516 at DPPEA for more information about NC BiomassTrader.