



MEGTEC won Climate Protection Award 2008

Clean Tech company MEGTEC Systems won the prestigious Climate Protection Award 2008, handed out by the US EPA since 1998. The Award is seen as recognition of ground breaking technology and efforts to reduce major emissions of GreenHouse Gas. A single installation can reduce emissions equivalent to the emissions of half a million cars. The Award was announced on Monday 19th June at a ceremony in Washington D.C. With the MEGTEC group headquartered in the US, the base for the coal mine activities is in the Swedish company MEGTEC Systems AB.

Coal mines around the world emit methane in large quantities but in extremely low concentrations, making abatement very difficult. As so far the only company in the World, MEGTEC has a commercial reference installation to clean coal mine ventilation air from methane emissions. With the patented technology, the energy in the ventilation air can be utilized. Since over a year there is a power plant in Australia based on the VOCSIDIZER technology, making it possible to utilize VAM (ventilation air methane) as a fuel. Thanks for the technology of MEGTEC, the power plant is thereby running on a fuel containing some 99% air and less than 1% methane.

Proven technology ready for the world market

- Our technology at the VAM fired Power Plant in Australia is working very well, says Ake Kallstrand, R&D Manager at MEGTEC. Traditional technology to treat and handle mine gas needs a methane minimum concentration of around 30%. Our VOCSIDIZER technology only needs 0.2% to be self sustainable. The first trials with mine gas were made in the mid 1990's. After a thorough development work, the technology is now mature enough to be introduced to the World market, where we are so far alone with having a proven technology and a commercial VAM installation in operation. More MEGTEC VAM installations are in the pipeline for Australia, for Europe, for the US and for China - a country representing almost half of the World market, being created by MEGTEC by showing that treating VAM is possible.

Security measures in coal mines creates a climate issue

Second only to CO₂, methane has a strong impact on Global Warming. Coal mines are important sources of emissions. When coal is formed, so is methane, which is emitted at the excavation of the coal. For safety reasons, methane being an explosive gas, ventilation air is being forced through the mine, diluting the liberated methane to concentration levels below one percent. The safety issue was thereby solved. But during the 1990's, with methane being identified as a powerful greenhouse gas, concern was raised about VAM being a strong driver of Global Warming.

A single ventilation shaft can emit a million tons of CO₂-equivalents and thereby have an effect on Global Warming similar to that of half a million cars or a million cows. We feel delighted and very honored to receive this prestigious Award as a recognition of the impact of our technology and of our way to bring it to the market, says Richard Mattus, Business Manager for the MEGTEC's new activity for the coal mines of the World.

Reduced methane emissions can reduce the rate of Global Warming

Methane is exciting in many ways. As a greenhouse gas it is more than 20 times as powerful as CO₂. It also has a shorter life time in atmosphere, approx 12 years. This means that a major emission reduction of methane can in a relatively short time reduce the impact on Global Warming. CO₂ has a very long life time, whereby it just accumulates in the atmosphere. A major reduction of CO₂ can therefore not reduce Global Warming, only slow down the rate of acceleration.

In order to reverse the trend of increasing Global Warming, major reductions of emissions of CO₂ AND of methane must be achieved. This is exactly what the MEGTEC technology is about,, says Richard Mattus, and why we have been honored with the EPA Climate protection Award 2008.



PICTURE: US EPA's "Climate Protection Award 2008", given to Megtec, represented by (from left) Lars Sundback, Ake Kallstrand and Richard Mattus.