

DOE NEWS

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**INTERMECH, INC. FIRST CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
IN DOE COMPLEX TO RECEIVE VPP STAR STATUS**

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded Intermech, Inc. the agency's Voluntary Protection Program's STAR status recognition, the highest level of recognition available in DOE's safety program. Intermech, a subcontractor to Bechtel National, Inc. on the Waste Treatment Plant Project at the Hanford Site in Richland, Washington, is the first construction company to receive the recognition throughout the DOE complex.

"The safety and health of contractor and federal employees are a high priority for the Department," said DOE Office of River Protection Manager Shirley Olinger. "This STAR status recognizes Intermech's commitment to the safety of their employees, as well as other employees on our site, and I commend and congratulate them for that commitment."

The DOE Voluntary Protection Program promotes safety and health excellence through cooperative efforts among labor, management, and government at DOE contractor sites across the nation. DOE has also formed partnerships with other Federal agencies and the private sector for both advancing and sharing its VPP experiences and preparing for program challenges in the next century.

The Department initiated its VPP in January 1994 to promote improved safety and health performance through public recognition of outstanding programs. DOE VPP also includes coverage of radiation protection/nuclear safety and emergency management because of the type and complexity of DOE facilities. Similar to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) VPP program, DOE VPP provides several proven benefits to participating sites, including improved labor/management relations, reduced workplace injuries and illnesses, increased employee involvement, improved morale, reduced absenteeism, and public recognition.

In November, a team of DOE safety and health experts performed a week-long onsite evaluation of Intermech's work practices throughout all areas of the site and interviewed employees and manager to assess their knowledge of VPP processes. That assessment resulted in a recommendation to award Intermech the STAR status.

At the WTP Project, Intermech provides design, fabrication and installation of nuclear quality ductwork for the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) of the main facilities. They also support BNI's VPP Star Status application by serving on the WTP VPP steering committee. The WTP is the largest federal construction project in the nation.

“BNI quote here.”

Intermech, with corporate offices in located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is BNI's largest subcontractor for the WTP Project, located north of Richland. In recent years, Intermech has acquired a northwest presence by completing work on the Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot in Umatilla, Oregon, and with the acquisition of Thompson Mechanical in Richland and Atlas Mechanical in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Intermech is the first company in the Luwa Americas corporate umbrella to attain VPP recognition

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