

# frontline



miamisburg mound community improvement corporation

winter 2005



## what's inside:

### Congress ok's \$4M for Mound improvements

page 2

### Water systems connected

page 2

### Activist suited to volunteer role

page 3

### Volunteer brings business saavy to board

page 3

### MMCIC hires new marketing director

page 4



## mound companies at forefront of energy technology

True to their roots, Mound scientists are again on the leading edge of emerging energy technologies that promise to revolutionize how power is used to make things work. One business partnership – involving Mound Technical Solutions and Inorganic Specialists – is focused on becoming a key player in the State of Ohio's program to develop hydrogen-fed fuel cells as part of the Third Frontier initiative.

### A \$10 billion industry

These fuel cells produce energy by breaking down hydrogen. The key advantages of hydrogen as fuel are its availability, superior efficiency over combustion and its clean, safe byproduct, which is water. Fuel cells could be used to supply energy for electric cars, heavy equipment, and handheld electronics as well as provide auxiliary power for airplanes and military equipment. The potential is so great that experts predict a \$10 billion fuel cell industry by 2010.

(Please see "Mound Companies" on page 2)



Powerful solutions: Mound-based scientists Doug McClelland of Mound Technical Solutions Inc. and Dr. David Firsich of Inorganic Specialists have partnered to develop test instrumentation for the hydrogen fuel cell, a priority of Ohio's Third Frontier program.



(“Mound Companies” continued from page 1.)

“It’s still in its infancy,” said Mound Technical Solutions Inc. president Doug McClelland, whose company has developed testing equipment for the new technology.

## Fuel cell test system a natural progression

As a Mound scientist during the Cold War, McClelland’s group developed instrumentation to test many technical processes in support of the nation’s defense weapons programs. In fact, today his company still produces tritium instrumentation as well as other custom test and measurement systems for a diverse customer base.

With his background in developing testing equipment, McClelland found the leap to hydrogen fuel cell test instrumentation a natural progression. He collaborated with Dr. Dave Firsich, president of Inorganic Specialists, who advised on electrochemical dimensions of the system.

Firsich’s company performs research and development in materials science and electrochemistry, specializing in rechargeable energy devices that deliver power for such items as cell phones and electric vehicles.

## Collaboration brings together resources

Now the partnership is ready to assemble the financing necessary to manufacture and bring the fuel cell test systems to market. The two companies have been working with Case Western Reserve University, the University of Dayton Research Institute, Sinclair Community College, Battelle Institute, Edison Material Technology Center and MMCIC to accomplish this.

“Our idea is to bring together all the business and technical resources to make this project successful,” McClelland said, noting that Case Western already has customers for the systems. “We’re confident that by combining our technologies with those of our collaborators, we will produce test stands that will fulfill the market needs and advance fuel cell technologies.”

# Congress OK’s \$4 million for mound improvements

Mound recently received a show of support from Congress when lawmakers approved \$4 million for capital improvements at the site. The allocation is part of the federal government’s FY 2005 budget.



**Representative Mike Turner:** “This project (Mound’s reuse effort) is unique, and it can be used as a model for future DOE cleanup and redevelopment.”

## A model for cleanup and redevelopment

“Mound is the first former DOE site where clean up is well under way and significant portions turned over to a private entity for redevelopment,” said Representative Mike Turner. “As such, this project is unique, and it can be used as a model for future DOE cleanup and redevelopment.”

According to Turner, the Mound reuse effort stacked up well against the criteria Congress uses to decide on the projects it will fund.

These standards include:

- Impact on the community
- Creation of economic development opportunities
- Whether the funds will complete a project
- Support of the local community

## Highlights partnership

“Members of Congress see it as a unique opportunity to highlight the partnership between the federal government and a local community to achieve the clean up and successful redevelopment of a former defense site,” Turner said.

MMCIC will use the \$4 million to implement the Mound comprehensive reuse plan, targeting improvements that will make the site more attractive in the marketplace.

# mound, city water systems connected



**CH2M Hill dismantled and shipped this water tower to another location to be reassembled and reused.**

For two years, officials have been following the steps necessary to allow connection of the Mound water system to the City of Miamisburg’s, in preparation for the day when the 306-acre site will become a private business park. A technical working group with representatives from the Department of Energy, site contractor CH2M Hill, MMCIC,

the City of Miamisburg and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) have been working toward the goal of providing standalone, metered service to each building.

Environmental regulators evaluated the Mound system – including the pipes themselves and soil within a 15-foot radius – and determined that about one-third of the system could be reused.

Both water systems have always been regulated and certified clean by the OEPA, according to the city’s environmental program manager, Beth Moore. The drinking water at Mound will be monitored just as it is in any other part of the city.

“Our goal is to fold Mound back into the community,” said Moore. “We want to treat it as we do any other business park.”



## activist suited to volunteer role

When Miamisburg's mayor and city council appointed Sharon Cowdrey to a citizens advisory committee to monitor Mound's cleanup, they didn't expect a "shrinking violet." And they have not been disappointed.

"Sharon has been dedicated to ensuring the cleanup of the Mound site and a healthy community," said Mayor Dick Church, Jr. "She has been a hard-working member of the Mound Reuse Committee since its inception in 1993, and I applaud her service."

An environmental activist for more than a dozen years, Cowdrey has never shied away from raising thorny issues and asking difficult questions. That – and her leadership role in

the watchdog group, Miamisburg Safety and Health (MESH) – made her the perfect fit for her volunteer position with the reuse committee, a citizens advisory group.

"What scared me was the possibility that the site could have been walked away from, and the environmental problems left behind," recalled the Miamisburg native.

From the outset, Cowdrey believed that, in order for the reuse committee to have credibility with DOE and the community, it should represent broad interests, including environmental watchdogs. With representatives from a variety of areas, the group has been involved in critical issues such as funding for

environmental remediation, establishment of the industrial cleanup standard, participating in working groups and monitoring the work completed by the contractor.



**Sharon Cowdrey,  
Mound Reuse Committee**

"The MRC has been able to fulfill its role because we have always stayed together and spoken with one voice on behalf of the community," she said. "We've been a vital part of what's being accomplished."

## volunteer brings business savvy to board



**Robert Lowden, MMCIC  
Board of Trustees**

Impeccable credentials as a Miamisburg native, a successful businessman and a well-respected citizen led City of Miamisburg officials to appoint Robert Lowden to the MMCIC Board

of Trustees back in 1993. But his

commitment to the community is what has kept him active and involved in the volunteer post for the past 12 years.

"I've stayed with it because I've felt that a successful outcome is important to the community," he said.

Lowden, one of seven charter members still serving on the board, has played a key role in helping to drive Mound's transformation from a defense weapons site to an industry and technology park.

"We were one of the first DOE sites in the country to pursue commercialization, so Bob's business savvy proved to be a key to

navigating those uncharted waters," said MMCIC President Michael Grauwelman.

"We have been fortunate to have his common sense approach to decision making in helping us through this complex process."

Looking back, Lowden believes that MMCIC's most significant accomplishment has been acting as the catalyst for DOE's change to an accelerated cleanup strategy. Under the new

schedule, the property will be turned over to the community by 2006 – far ahead of the previous target date of 2020.

While Lowden's business experience has been varied, his latest venture is Golf on Tour, a company that provides custom golf and sightseeing trips. He and his wife of 50 years, Barbara, have four grown children, 13 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

## MMCIC board adds new members

Rapid progress is being made to prepare the Mound site for its new future as a business and technology park. MMCIC officials have been preparing in a variety of ways, including the restructuring of the Board of Trustees with the addition of two new members.

"The MMCIC is about to enter a new chapter in the redevelopment process" said MMCIC President Mike Grauwelman. "We believe it will require individuals with skill sets that expand on those of the Board members who have served this organization from the beginning."

The two new members of the MMCIC Board are Eric Cluxton, senior vice president of retail services at Fifth Third Bank and a native of Miamisburg, and Keith Johnson, the City's economic development director since 1994.

The MMCIC Board includes Miamisburg City Manager John Weithofer (chairman), Don Koller, (vice chairman), Bob Bell, Mayor Dick Church, Jr., Robert Lowden, Miamisburg Finance Director George Perrine, James Van Tassel and special advisor Richard Flitcraft.





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## MMCIC hires marketing director

A seasoned and well-respected marketing professional has joined the staff of the MMCIC in preparation for the launch of the Mound site as a full-fledged commercial enterprise. A former corporate executive with NCR Corporation, Lexis Nexis, and Shopsmith, Bert Kollaard brings considerable skills and 25 years of experience to the MMCIC team in strategic planning, marketing, marketing research, new business development, product management and professional services.

Kollaard has also served in senior management positions for both a strategic planning consultancy and an advertising firm. He founded his own marketing services firm in 2003 and served as a consultant on the team that developed the marketing strategies and plan to guide the future of the Mound site.

"I was motivated to get involved in the Mound project, in part, because I had an appreciation for the site through my father-in-law, who spent 36 years working as a scientist here," said



**Bert Kollaard,**  
**MMCIC marketing director**

Kollaard. "I'm looking forward to helping MMCIC transition to a dynamic, marketing-driven business and technology park, and doing my part to help the community and region capitalize on the site's economic development potential."

