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Lubrication Technology, Inc.

Engineered Custom Lubricants

3851 Exchange Avenue

Aurora, IL 60504

T: 630.449.5000

F: 630.585.0050

www.ecllube.com

Lubrication Technology, Inc.

7595 Gallia Pike

Franklin Furnace, OH 45629

T: 740.574.5150

F: 740.574.4740

www.lubricationtechnology.com

Latest News

Contact: Paul Bedford, Vice President, at 630.449.5000 or pbedford@ecllube.com

Engineered Custom Lubricants Offers Customers Virtual, Real-Time Access to Product Validation Lab

[Any customer with a smart phone, tablet or PC can now link in real time to ECL's R&D lab to review and discuss laboratory tests ECL is conducting to ensure a grease meets customer specifications.]

Aurora, IL, USA – March 4, 2014. The next time one of Engineered Custom Lubricants' customers asks how a product test is coming along, they'll likely hear the ECL representative say, "Would you like to check on that right now?"

ECL recently replaced bulky desktop computers that monitor each piece of laboratory test equipment with networked Android™ tablets that both process data faster and allow laboratory personnel to check on tests remotely. "Offering customers the same remote, real-time access was the next logical step," said Paul Bedford, ECL vice president of sales and marketing.

Before a customer decides to run life-cycle tests with a grease, ECL conducts several tests to pre-qualify the grease to the customer's specifications, including its compatibility with design materials and its ability to perform at extreme temperatures, reduce wear, stay where it's applied, resist oxidation and repel water or harsher fluids and gasses. Using their smart phones, tablets or PCs, customers can now view tests in progress through live tablet cameras at ECL; review test data in multiple formats; view electron microscope scans; and discuss both test protocols and up-to-the-minute results with ECL chemists and tribologists. Customers "enter" the ECL lab through a secure, one-time, password-protected website. The password expires after the session is complete.

Will virtual visits to the ECL lab catch on in the marketplace? "Only time will tell," Bedford said.

"One part of our technology leadership strategy is to use information technology to get closer to our customers. In addition to real-time data, we see the virtual lab program as a great in-service education opportunity for customers who want a better understanding of the analytical tests and equipment we use to develop and qualify their greases. Fundamentally, this is a major lab upgrade that allows us to collaborate, monitor and process test data faster -- and fast development and turnaround is what all customers want and need to be competitive," said Dr. Kasturi Lal, ECL vice president of technology.

Engineered Custom Lubricants, founded in 1954, is a privately held growth company that designs, manufactures, markets and sells high performance, first-fill greases and coatings for OEMS and their suppliers. ECL offers more than 400 greases, fluorinated dispersions and waterborne dry film coatings that are specified by OEMs and their suppliers. Recently, it founded Engineered Custom Lubricants GmbH in Hamburg, Germany, and acquired Lubrication Technology, Inc., manufacturer of Christo-Lube® brand lubricants. ECLI Products, LLC, owns and does business as Engineered Custom Lubricants and Lubrication Technology. For more information, visit ECLlube.com or call +630.449.5000 or +49 40 38666080.

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