



NC World Trade Association

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The North Carolina World Trade Association is pleased to announce the winner of its 2000 Governor's International Trade Award, Tempest Environmental Systems, Inc. of Durham, North Carolina. This award is given annually to a company that has contributed significantly to North Carolina's international trade stature. Some of the criteria against which nominees are judged include innovation, vision, financial strength, accomplishments and performance. Candidates may be in the areas of manufacturing or agriculture-related exports.

The fundamental mission of Tempest Environmental Systems is to ensure safe, potable drinking water is available in areas that are environmentally compromised, whether by natural disaster or by man's introduction of nuclear, biological or chemical pollutants to water supplies. The spread of water-borne diseases and the threats they pose to human life throughout such disaster areas is an all too well documented problem.

More and more, Tempest Environmental Systems, headed by Dr. Roddy Tempest (Chairman and CEO) is called upon to provide solutions in the face of these disasters. In 1999 alone, Tempest led the response to water quality questions in the Kosovar refugee crisis in Albania (Operation Shining Hope), the devastating earthquakes in Turkey, and most recently in flood ravaged coastal areas of Venezuela. This response was made possible by Tempest Environmental Systems' dedication to promoting the need for, and developing, technologies that meet the water purification needs of populations under the most adverse conditions. Their state-of-the-art technologies have been used to save thousands of lives around the world by ensuring that the most basic of all human needs, safe water, is provided to all in need.

Tempest Environmental Systems is then first in line to provide assistance in the reconstruction efforts that ravaged countries face after immediate concerns for survival are met. Damaged infrastructure and source contamination are challenges to the quality of potable water long after the disaster relief community vacates the area. Tempest Environmental Systems works with local governments and international funding sources to promote reconstruction efforts in water purification and wastewater management.

In 1999, the company also exported water and wastewater purification equipment to over two-dozen countries without crisis needs. Tempest Environmental Systems manufactured and installed a reverse osmosis water purification plant for a water bottling company in Angola, created a wastewater treatment system for a hospital in Costa Rica, exported thousands of countertop water purification systems to France and Japan, and developed active trade contracts with agents and municipalities in Korea, the Philippines and Taiwan.

As diehard advocates of American technologies, Tempest Environmental Systems has worked diligently to form tactical consortiums of American firms in order to compete with other international corporations. These efforts have greatly promoted the visibility of this North Carolina based company and will continue to facilitate their growth and success.

For more information on the North Carolina World Trade Association, the Governor's International Trade Award contact Pamela Davison at the World Trade Center North Carolina at 919-743-0177, or Corey Taylor at Tempest Environmental Systems, 919-688-1460.