

# KAMLOOPS The Daily News

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## WOOD WASTE GASIFIER

# U.S. partner tours Nexterra operations here

New laws help clean technology companies build a market at home

By CAM FORTEMS  
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A partnership between a major United States corporation and a niche B.C. firm with operations in Kamloops is targeting the American university market for growth.

Two senior officials with Johnson Controls Inc. toured Tolko Industries Ltd.'s Heffley Creek plant Monday to view the wood-waste gasifier in operation. They also visited Nexterra Energy's pilot plant in Kamloops, where the company's technology was field tested.

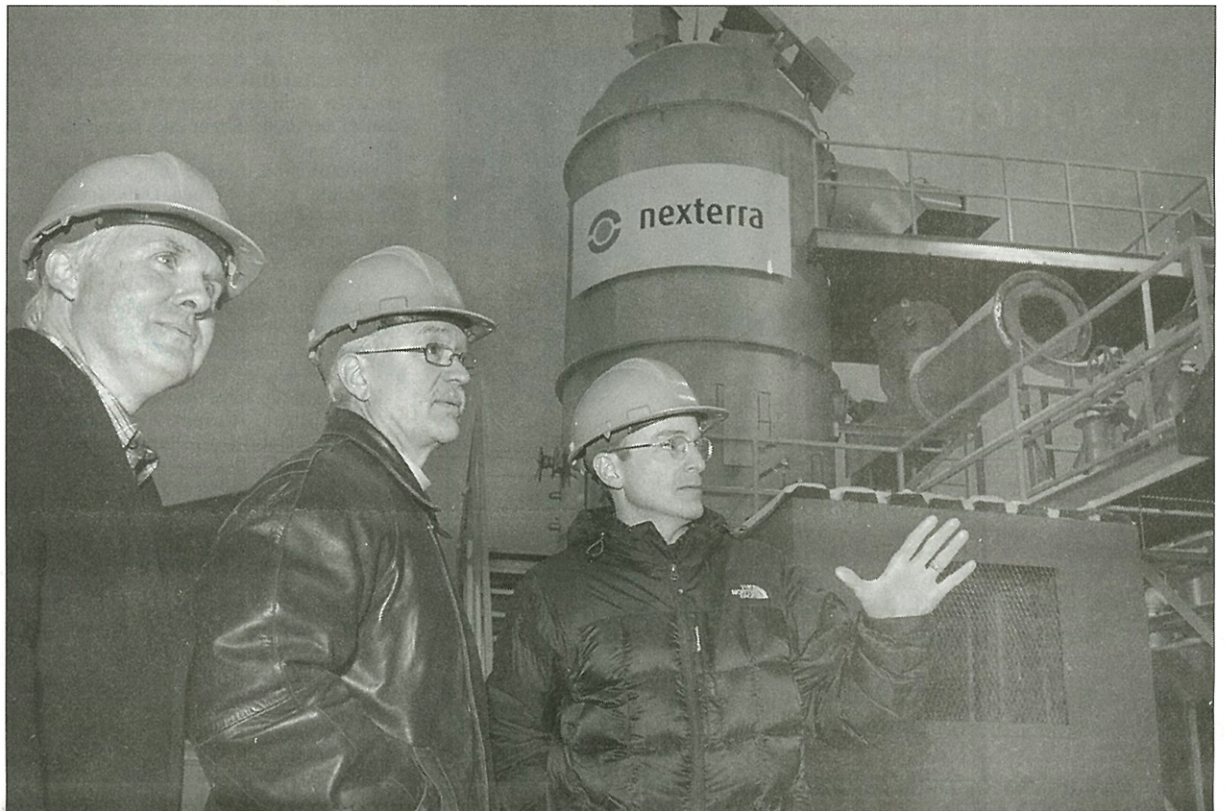
The success of Nexterra's gasifier at Tolko and the test plant resulted in a contract with Johnson Controls. Vancouver-based Nexterra supplies the technology while its Fortune 500 partner markets and builds applications.

A gasifier using woodwaste is under construction at the University of South Carolina. The Johnson Controls/Nexterra gasifier will be used to heat boilers for the campus.

That facility is being touted by Johnson Controls as the future for energy needs on campuses in the United States and Canada.

"We're very bullish on the technology," said Don Albinger, an executive with Johnson Controls based in Milwaukee, Wis. "We see it as succeeding in the public sector."

Albinger said using wood waste for power is particularly attractive on campuses because it does not contribute to global



NEXTERRA ENERGY Corp. president and CEO Jonathan Rhone, right, talks with Jim Simpson, left, and Don Albinger of Johnson

Controls. They toured the local product development centre Thursday after a tour of the gasification plant at Tolko in Heffley Creek.

MURRAY MITCHELL/THE DAILY NEWS

warming.

"You find that sector has a sensitivity and wants stewardship on the environment. Students demand it and faculty wants it."

The partner companies are making a presentation at the University of British Columbia today.

Jonathan Rhone, Nexterra's CEO, said new laws in British Columbia brought in by the B.C. Liberal government will help

clean technology companies like his build a market at home. The company will be closely watching the provincial budget Feb. 20 for a host of new environment measures related to reduction of greenhouse gases.

"We've got a good cluster of clean technology companies," said Rhone, who helped develop the plant in Kamloops.

"If we really want to be world class you need a local market. You need to showcase your tech-

nology."

While Albinger said the marketing of Nexterra's gasifier technology will focus on it helping fight global warming, the plants must also be cost-effective. Cost, rather than environmental laws or marketing, was the reason for the gasifier at Heffley Creek.

Nexterra spent \$1 million upgrading its Kamloops product development centre last year. Rhone said it will continue to in-

vest and develop new technology here.

The latest goal is demonstrating syngas, the product of gasification of woodwaste, can be used to fire an internal combustion engine. Conventionally the product is burned to create steam that drives a turbine. But that is less efficient in theory than firing an internal combustion engine.

"We believe it will be a game-changer," Rhone said.