

Inteplast celebrates 20th anniversary



Posted: Thursday, February 23, 2012 8:16 pm | Updated: 8:31 pm, Wed Feb 22, 2012.

On Feb. 14, Dr. John D. Young - co-founder and president of Inteplast Group and a physician-scientist by training - and his leadership team hosted a dinner for over 200 dignitaries and local guests to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Inteplast Group.

At the event, Young expressed his gratitude for the help and confidence placed in the organization from local governments and the education systems for their role in the start up of one of the largest private projects in the history of the plastics industry. By means of a slide show and recounting anecdotes, Dr. Young revisited with his guests the early days of Inteplast's historic start-up that led to its dominant market position today.

The Inteplast Group complex in Lolita is the largest single integrated plastics manufacturing site in the world, producing over 1 billion pounds of plastics substrates a year. With over 3.4 million square feet of built facilities, there is simply no equal in similar industries. One of its plants - the largest bag manufacturing plant in the world, known as IBS, or Integrated Bagging Systems - spans the size of 16 football fields. Its products - bags, films, sheets, boards, and boxes, among other plastics substrates - are found in every supermarket, convenience store, distribution and consumer center, home building yard and construction outlet, postal office and home kitchen in North America.

Although the sheer size of the Lolita site sets Inteplast Group apart from its competitors, what really gives Inteplast a formidable advantage in the marketplace is the extensive use of automation, technology and strong management systems that afford the company top quality products at competitive prices. In fact, the competitive structure of the Lolita plant site is envied across business lines. This can be seen by the recent consolidation that has taken place in the industry allowing Inteplast to grow to over \$1.3 billion dollars in sales turnover in 2011 through both organic expansions in Lolita as well as strategic acquisitions in North America. The group operates 21 plants, 10 warehouses and is headquartered in Livingston, New Jersey.

"But it all started in Lolita, Texas, 20 years ago," Young said.

Young credits the managers, engineers and operators assembled 20 years ago with the determination and discipline to make such a massive undertaking a reality. Celebrations for the 20th year began with an employee gathering on Feb. 13, where Dr. Young and presidents of AmTopp, IBS and World-Pak - the divisions that make up Inteplast Group - recognized employee achievement as they do every year.

Inteplast employs close to 2,000 people in Lolita and in payroll alone it spent \$90 million dollars in 2011, according to company officials.

"Many of the company managers are local people," said Young. "They have been promoted through the ranks over the years and they represent our next generation of company leaders. I am enormously proud of them, for their loyalty to the company and for their hands-on tenacity, perseverance and hard work over the years. They are what Inteplast is all about."

During both evenings, Dr. Young emphasized the special significance of these accomplishments and the overall Inteplast mission played out during a time when manufacturing in the United States has been in rapid decline and the U.S. economy has come to rely heavily on imports. The Inteplast success proves that it is still possible to create a major domestic manufacturing facility, if all the right resources are put in place—a dream harbored by Young since the early 1990s when the Inteplast concept was put to test.