Mountain View powers up with methane, methanol

Alza, city turn landfill gas into energy and cash

By Daniel DeBolt

The city of Mountain View has joined forces with Alza Corp. in turning the methane gas under Shoreline Park into electricity.

The gas, produced by biodegrading landfill garbage, is now pushed through a maze of pipes just below the ground to three 1,300-horsepower engines, which generate electricity.

The engines will generate enough electricity every year to meet the annual needs of 1,900 homes. Alza, the pharmaceutical company that spearheaded the $11.2 million project, will use most of that energy at six of its large buildings on Charleston Road, with 10 percent being sold to PG&E for use elsewhere.

The methane is expected to come out of the ground for at least 15 more years.

Government officials and corporate representatives extolled the virtues of turning the waste gas into energy at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 26 in the lobby of Alza’s Mountain View headquarters.

“This is going to be a prime example for how things can work statewide,” said state Assemblywoman Sally Lieber. She made jokes about how methane gas used to come out of the ground during Grateful Dead concerts at Shoreline Amphitheatre.

“Not only is it good for the environment, it’s helping us as well,” said Kevin Duggan, city manager. He meant financially: Last month the city received $130,000 for selling the methane gas to Alza. Duggan estimates that more than $1 million in revenues will be generated every year.

Alza was encouraged by the city to build the energy plant, and PG&E provided $2.9 million in incentives under its self-generation incentive program.

Alza spokesperson Liz Falcone said it wasn’t common for a corporation to take on such a project. Only a few companies have, including General Motors, she said.

One Alza official said that it was the company’s goal to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 7 percent. “We’ve done it in Mountain View,” he said. “That’s quite an accomplishment.”

“When it comes to CO2, less is more,” said David Rubin, director of service analysis for PG&E. Rubin said the heat produced by the engines was being used to heat water for the buildings.

“They are making full use of every BTU of that gas,” he said.

Alza estimates the new plant will prevent 17.3 million pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere every year.

It will also keep methane out of the atmosphere which previously had seeped from the ground at Shoreline. Methane represents 9 percent of greenhouse gases emitted in the U.S., according to the Environmental Protection Agency. “methane is over 20 times more effective in trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period.”

Present at the ceremony were Mayor Nick Galiotto and council members Matt Pear and Tom Means. All three officials were on the technology committee when the project first got its wings. Galiotto said Alza was told “the company’s breakthrough in fuel cell technology lets laptops, cell phones run on methanol

By Daniel DeBolt

Mountain View-based Polyfuel has developed a technology that they say will allow laptops and cell phones to run indefinitely on methanol, a renewable fuel that can be made from corn and other crops.

Polyfuel’s breakthrough is a plastic membrane that at first glance looks like heavy-duty Saran Wrap. But the substance — which took years for the former Stanford Research Institute scientists to develop — converts methanol into electricity.

“There aren’t many pieces of plastic that do that,” said Jim Balcom, president and CEO of the 40-person company. “The membrane is the heart of the fuel cell.”

While hydrogen fuel cell technology may be many years away for cars, methanol fuel cell technology for handheld electronics is apparently just around the corner — and may prove to be a catalyst for automotive use, Balcom said. Many major companies, such as NEC and Sanyo, are already using Polyfuel’s orange-tinted membrane which converts methanol into electricity.
membranes to develop their own fuel cells.

The technology isn't meant to make standard batteries obsolete, Balcom said. But for many handheld devices, especially as they become more powerful or use larger LCD screens, the desired run time simply won't be achieved without a fuel cell to accompany the battery, he said.

Researchers believe today's battery technology has nearly reached its peak. And there are hazards, with reports of some newer laptop batteries catching on fire.

Cell phones and laptops will likely be the first to use the technology, though there has been interest for various other devices, including cameras, electric scooters and security devices.

Balcom favors the idea of making the methanol fuel cell a cartridge that can be replaced, like a non-rechargeable battery. Another possibility would be to refill the device after the methanol is used up — similar to the pressurized refill canisters used for butane lighters.
Presto change-o
MOUNTAIN VIEW STARTUPTurns E-MAIL TO
HARD COPY FOR THOSE WITHOUT ONLINE ACCESS

By Angela Hey

All by itself, the printer next to your phone whirs into action. Soon enough, you’ve got a hard copy of your e-mail—and you don’t even own a computer.

A Mountain View startup, Presto, is partnering with HP to create a service that sends pictures, e-mails, calendar pages and news to friends and relatives who aren’t online. The service can also deliver news, recipes and health information.

According to a Pew Internet survey last April, whereas 88 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 go online, only 32 percent of those over 65 connect to the Internet. In households whose annual income is less than $30,000, only 53 percent of adults go online.

So, hard as it may be to believe in Silicon Valley, there are still millions of people who can benefit from Presto’s service.

Presto started in 2004 and, unlike many Silicon Valley startups that are engineering driven, spent its early life learning about customers. According to Sheila Salvucci, vice president of marketing, Presto spent “a few million to research the market and understand what consumers really want before creating the service.”

The team comes from leading companies in consumer marketing, photo-sharing, mobile computing and Internet services. More importantly, it is backed with $10 million in venture funding from Kleiner Perkins and Clearstone Venture Partners.

HP has created a special printer for Presto’s service, the Printing Mailbox. It sets up easily, requiring only one tri-color cartridge. The paper path is straighter than on many printers, reducing the possibility of a paper jam. It has a STOP button and volume controls, the latter to vary the loudness of an alert sound that indicates message arrival.

The Printing Mailbox polls the Presto service and is smart enough to disconnect if a phone call comes in. So there is no disruption to normal phone calls, as there would be with a fax machine. That’s just one of the reasons you might be tempted to pay $99.99 for a year’s service and $149 (plus tax and shipping) for HP’s device.

Another reason is that it actually reformats an e-mail with pictures attached, laying out the pictures on a decorative page, like a greeting card. As higher quality cameras are integrated with PDAs and cell phones, this feature offers more value to the traveler, who can send illustrated messages to the Printing Mailbox while on the road.

I wonder if the service fee is sustainable, or if an advertising model will prevail eventually—or, for that matter, if a service is really needed. A software application on the sender’s machine and a next-generation color fax machine could potentially do the job without the need for a fee-based service.

And amongst the plethora of photo-sharing and photo-finishing sites—from vendors like Photobucket, Yahoo and Kodak—some must surely want to add simple services for reaching non-computer users.

Subscribers may well want to send a PDF file to an aging parent. Surely Presto can add a general purpose printer driver to its service. After all, remote printing is common in the business market.

My take is that the service at its launch, in November, will be highly functional for the specific tasks it is designed to perform, but somewhat limited for professional computer users.

When third parties start to create enhanced services on Presto’s platform, such as personal health reports, TV schedules, corporate of the day and prayer of the week, it could really start to take off.


Angela Hey can be reached at amhey@techvizer.com.

In households whose annual income is less than $30,000, only 53 percent of adults go online.

ALZA

Continued from page 29

money isn’t as important as burning as much of the methane as possible.”

There are 350 energy plants in the country that run off of land-fill-generated methane gas. Scott Colpitts, director of engineering and maintenance for Alza, said the closest plants like it are probably in Monterey and Altamont. A subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, Alza makes pharmaceutical drug delivery technology, such as timed-release capsules.

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Photo of Prem and Divya Dhar at Puerto de la Cruz in Tenerife, Spain.

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If your engine is idling rough, it may be that you have a burned valve. This can be diagnosed with a compression test that measures the pressure in all cylinders. When the pressure gauge reads lower than normal, pressure is leaking out of the combustion chamber. A burned valve, which can no longer hold a leak-free seal due to overheating, is usually limited to exhaust valves because they run much hotter than intake valves. To repair a burned valve, it is necessary to remove the cylinder head, replace the bad valve, and reface/repair the valve seat. If one valve has failed, preventive maintenance and common sense usually dictate that they all be replaced while you are at it.

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2526 Leghorn Street, Mountain View (Near Costco)
they're audacious and clumsy and they look like Swiss cheese. But they're irresistible.

An early hit with gardeners, athletes, nurses and chefs because of their comfort, arch support and slip-on-ability, Crocs have become a new fashion staple.

Ask most wearers of the rubber sandal about their shoes and you'll think they're part of the Colorado company's marketing team.

Take Barbara Anderson, who, between sips of coffee with a friend at the Stanford Shopping Center, couldn’t stop raving about the black Crocs that she picked up for a month-long trip to Eastern Europe.

“I had two other pairs of shoes with me that I thought I’d wear more, but I wore these 25 out of the 28 days of my trip,” said Anderson, of San Jose, pointing at her feet.

She wore them with and without socks, for long days of hiking and sightseeing.

“Your foot kinda sinks into it. They don’t slide or slip,” she said.

“The people I traveled with were tired of me talking about how great they are,” she added.

With Crocs, as with Ugg boots, comfort has triumphed over looks. Unlike $100 Uggs or Dansko clogs, Crocs are relatively affordable at $30 for adults and $25 for kids. And there are plenty of colors to choose from for men and women. The standard “Cayman” style...
comes in a wide array of hues, from neon pink to army green. However, because the wide-toed sandals — originally intended for boating in Boulder, Colo. — are clown-esque, they were first worn like other unsightly shoes: as house slippers and gardening slip-ons. That’s all changed, says Donya Disperati, shoe sales manager at Nordstrom in the Stanford Shopping Center, where Crocs are big sellers.

“Now, it’s more casual wear,” she said. When deciding on a new pair of shoes, buyers must determine their needs along the look-good/feel-good continuum. It’s rare to find both extremes in one shoe, and Crocs are up there with other hideous-but-comfy shoes, like duck boots and aqua socks. But even the trend-seekers are having trouble ignoring them.

At the Stanford Shopping Center last week, Thais Barrocas, 15, in Ugg boots and a miniskirt, said she was tempted to buy Crocs. “They’re ugly but they’re comfortable,” she said, adding that one of her friends already owns them in four different colors.

When a Crocs representative approached owner Jessica Roth about carrying the strange sandals at her family’s shoe store, her initial reaction was: “Oh, no thank you. They’re really kind of funny-looking.” But she soon changed her mind. Clad in brown Mary Jane Crocs last week, Roth said she’s had them in stock for the past year and estimates she has sold about 600 pairs.

“Right now, if I put in an order, I won’t get it until 16 to 18 weeks. That’s unheard of in the shoe business.” What began as a shoe for adult outdoor enthusiasts has become a must-have for kids. Barbara Salinger, of Menlo Park, has given her 3-year-old son, Danny, two pairs of Crocs — navy and khaki — because he wears them so much.

“The initial attraction for curly-haired Danny, Salinger said, was the friendly cartoon crocodile on the shoe. For her, Crocs’ selling points have been their affordability, “the ease of a 3-year-old being able to put them on.”

EXPENSIVE SHOES (RELATIVELY) CHEAP

Eza Americo de Souza designs and sells her own line of shoes from her Bryant Avenue boutique called Yasmin Deluxe Couture. A former interior designer, Americo de Souza says she considers shoe design her calling.

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on himself," the fact that they can be hosed down when they get muddy, and most of all, "just the fact that he likes them," Salinger said. But mom admits that Crocs have a downside. Danny's preschool won't allow sandals on the playground. And when he plays in a park that has sand or woodchips, his feet are vulnerable to splinters and irritation, Salinger said.

Gail Moore, a nurse at Stanford Hospital, says she still prefers her "Birkies" to the Crocs she sees all over the hospital. "I think there are more comfortable shoes out there," she said. And there are more attractive shoes out there. But fortunately, Crocs has made strides in the appearance department.

The company has expanded its line of shoes, adding the narrower, more feminine Mary Janes and "Prima" ballet flats. Roth says styles to come include high-heeled Crocs, Stanford Crocs and Disney Crocs.

Croc wearers can also accessorize their sandals with "Jibbitz," little $2 charms used to adorn the holed top of each Croc. Jibbitz charms come as ladybugs, skulls, flowers, jewels and other collectable shapes. "We've had a customer buy 90 Jibbitz in one transaction," Disperati said.

During the chilly months, Crocs don't have to hide in the closet next to the flip-flops. Roth recommends slipping Crocs over a pair of furry fleece socks for extra warmth.

The company also sells enclosed rain boots, and is coming out with other cold-weather shoes.

So, move over, Uggs. Your time is up.
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This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 5, 2006. (Voice Oct. 27, No. 10, 2006)

997 Other Legals

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Case No. 66952 TS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license(s) is about to be made. The name, address of the Seller/Licensor are: JOSE DEL LUNZ MEDIN, ANSELMO RAMIREZ LANDIN, DANILO DANIELES, IBAZ ROMANS GONZALEZ HERNANDEZ, 2585 CALIFORNIA ST, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040. The name, and address of the Buyer/Transferee are: JOSE MARTIN ESQUIVIL, MARTINI PEREZ GOMEZ, 2731 HUNTER ST, PALO ALTO, CA 94306. As listed by the Seller/Licensor, all other business names and address(es) used by the Seller/Licensor within three years before the date such list was delivered to Buyer/Transferee are: NONE. The assets to be sold are described in general as: ALL ASSETS OF THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS: SAVOR MEXICAN RESTAURANT and located at: 2595 CALIFORNIA ST, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040. The kind of license to be transferred is an ON SALE BEER & WINE - EATING PLACE. License Number: 41-013432 now issued for the premises located at: 2595 CALIFORNIA ST, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040. The anticipated date of the sale/transfer is: NOVEMBER 22, 2006 at the office of: ESCRUDIO CONTROL COMPANY, 2583 KIYLE BOULEVARD, SUITE 103 SANTA CLARA, CA 95053. It has been agreed between the seller/licensor(are) and the intended buyer(s)/transferee(s), as required by Sec. 24073 of the Business and Professions code, that the consideration for transfer of the business and license is to be paid after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Dated: OCTOBER 5, 2006
JOSE MARTIN ESQUIVIL, MARTIN PEREZ GOMEZ
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2047 Montecito Ave. #2
Priced at: $659,900

2111 Latham St. #321
Mountain View
Priced at: $498,000

Desirable Cypress Point Lakes
1 b d & 1 ba top floor condo
Unit overlooks the lake
New carpet throughout
Freshly painted interior
Remodeled kitchen w/ new appliances,
cabinetry & granite counters
Remodeled bathrooms
Bonus storage closet

Priced at: $529,000

305 Cypress Point Drive #124
Mountain View
Open Sat & Sun
1:30 to 4:30

Desirable Cypress Point Lakes
1 b d & 1 ba top floor condo
Unit overlooks the lake
New carpet throughout
Freshly painted interior
Remodeled kitchen w/ new appliances,
cabinetry & granite counters
Spacious living room
Complex w/ swimming pools
Convenient to Downtown

Priced at: $3,495,500

913 Huntington Dr., Mountain View
Listed at $673,500

• 3 Bedroom/ 2.5 Bath
• Approx. 1,244 Sq. Ft.
• Pergo Flooring in LR, FR,
DR, Kitchen, & Powder Room
• Tile Kitchen Countertops
Including Kitchen Island

• Upgraded Plush Carpet
• Custom Blinds Throughout
• Central A/C & Heating
• 2-Car Attached Garage
• Large Storage Space in Garage

130 Holly Ct., Mountain View
Listed at $669,000

• 3 Bedrooms
• 2.5 Bathrooms
• Approximately 1,119 sq.ft.
• Master Bedroom with En-Suite Bath
• Ceiling Fans in Dining Room & Study
• New Paint
• Ideal Location Facing Park
• Indoor Laundry Room with sink
• Refrigerator, Washer & Dryer Included

496 First St., Suite 200 • Los Altos, CA 94022

First Class Service is our promise to you!

We can make selling or buying a home simple and
more pleasurable. Call us TODAY. We’ll do all the
work, while you enjoy life’s simple pleasures!

“Your dream is our passion”

ROYCE and the art
of Real Estate

Open House
Saturday, November 4th 1-4PM

Just Listed: Duplex 46 & 48 Church Street, Mountain View
$1,295,000

United States Postage
PAID
Mountain View, California Permit No. 46

VOICE
Virtual Tour®
www.davidchungapr.com

Gorgeous 4 years young townhouse in Mountain View

This wonderful 3 story townhouse has it all. Great floor-plan for contemporary living. 3 bedrooms/3.5 baths with master suite and a downstairs bedroom with its own full bath. Beautifully landscaped yard. High ceiling. Open gourmet kitchen with breakfast bar, granite countertops, cherry cabinets, GE appliances. Living/dining has hardwood floors, gas fireplace. Patio for grilling. Inside laundry area. Large 2 car attached garage. Central A/C and heating. Low HOA dues.

Offered at $769,000

David Chung
Office: 650.543.1058
Cell: 650.302.6027
dchung@apr.com
www.davidchungapr.com
Enjoy townhome living at its finest! This huge 3 bedroom and 2.5 bath townhome features 2,426 sq. ft. of living space, Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, enormous kitchen w/ granite counters and ample cabinet space, living, dining and family room, areas, master bedroom w/ vaulted ceilings, incredibly large master bath w/ marble floors and jacuzzi tub, walking distance to downtown, 2 car garage and much more....

**OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00 TO 4:00**

146 Giffin Road, Los Altos $1,275,000

Wonderful water front home featuring 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, major remodel includes custom kitchen, bathrooms, hardwood floors, radiant heating, double pane windows and a large boat dock. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac with beautiful bay views you must come see this home.

**OPEN SAT & SUN 1:30 TO 4:30**

694 Port Drive, San Mateo $999,950

Charming one level second floor end unit condominium in great Central location featuring 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood floors, balcony, laundry area in 2 car garage and extra storage. Great Price! Don’t Miss!

**OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00 TO 4:00**

2025 California Street, Mountain View $379,000

Charming condo in a desirable west San Jose area. Located in a quiet and friendly neighborhood, this cozy condo featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, major upgrades include carpet, kitchen & bath room floors, kitchen countertop, stove, sinks, double pane windows through out, interior paint. Extra closet, walk-in closet, end unit with beautiful view of swimming pool. You don’t want to miss this.

**OPEN SUN 1:00 TO 4:00**

3586 Payne Avenue #14 San Jose $456,786

Gorgeous traditional home on private cul-de-sac featuring 6 bedrooms, 4 baths, separate family room, media room, hobby room, inside laundry and utility room, separate dining room, beautiful master suite with huge walk-in closets, hardwood floors, formal entry, A/C and much more! Immaculate landscaping and lovely private garden amongst the pines. This is a must see!

**OPEN SAT & SUN 1:30 TO 4:30**

695 San Martin Place, Los Altos $2,179,000

This wonderful spacious home features 2230 SF of living space, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, recently remodeled kitchen and baths, separate family room and den, hardwood floors, central A/C and much more with Million Dollar views, and privacy galore! Wonderful outdoor settings perfect for entertaining! Close to Downtown Los Gatos and Los Gatos schools. Vacant and ready for you!

**OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00 TO 4:00**

115 Hill Top Drive Los Gatos $2,395,000

Beautiful, modern High Tech end unit, ground floor condominium, ready to move in! This property has never been lived in due to work relocation. It features 1 bedroom, 1 bath, separate dining room and family room, central forced air heat and A/C, carpeting and hardwood floors, inside laundry, underground parking and patio. Complex offers clubhouse, full workout facility, pool, spa and barbecue area. With upgrades galore don’t miss!

**OPEN SAT & SUN 1:30 TO 4:30**

3901 Lick Mill Blvd., #101 Santa Clara $425,000

Choose townhome living at its finest! This huge 3 Bedroom and 2.5 Bath townhome features 2,426 sq. ft. of living space, Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, enormous kitchen w/ granite counters and ample cabinet space, living, dining and family room, areas, master bedroom w/ vaulted ceilings, incredibly large master bath w/ marble floors and jacuzzi tub, walking distance to downtown, 2 car garage and much more....

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