

Renowned Industry Award goes to President of Vogelbusch USA

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Gunter Brodl, President of Vogelbusch USA, Inc., was honored for his services to the global ethanol industry with the renowned FEW Award of Excellence. The award, bestowed by BBI International and the leading industry publication, Ethanol Producer Magazine, honors individuals who make particularly outstanding contributions to the ethanol industry. The decisive milestones of Brodl's career include the establishment of some of the first ethanol plants in the United States, where he introduced the Vogelbusch "Multicont" fermentation process.

"Thirty-nine licenses for ethanol plants in North America is a commendable output," says Josef Modl, authorized representative at parent company Vogelbusch GmbH based in Vienna, Austria. "Thanks to Gunter Brodl's decades of dedication, this results in an annual production volume of 1.5 billion gallons from Vogelbusch-designed production plants in the U.S. and Canada. He had a good instinct for the future significance of ethanol early on and he helped Vogelbusch USA attain the recognition it now enjoys in the United States. The FEW Award is a well-deserved tribute, and I congratulate Gunter Brodl on receiving it."

The FEW Award of Excellence for Trailblazer Leadership and Engineering Distinction in the Global Ethanol Industry is conferred by BBI International, organizer of the world's most prestigious ethanol conference (International Fuel Ethanol Workshop & Expo FEW), and Ethanol Producer Magazine, the leading industry medium in the U.S. Since the year 2000, the award has been bestowed on individuals who render outstanding services to the field of ethanol production.

Gunter Brodl, an Austrian by birth, began working in the alcohol industry 45 years ago. Back in 1977, when he took up his first post with Vogelbusch GmbH, he already had related experience on two continents under his belt. When alcohol fuel production was established in the U.S. in the wake of the energy crisis, he took a job on what was, for him, the third continent. From 1979 onward, he played a major role in establishing America's very first ethanol production plants for Vogelbusch. Partly due to his pioneering work, the ethanol market in the U.S. grew quickly and, as early as 1989, Vogelbusch founded an independent subsidiary in Houston, Texas: Vogelbusch USA, Inc. In the subsequent years Brodl, in his capacity as President of Vogelbusch USA, successfully advanced the development of grain-to-ethanol technologies in the U.S. and optimized them. He also introduced "Multicont", a continuous fermentation process at the cutting edge of technology in the United States. All in all, Brodl's career to date has consistently focused on designing energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly ethanol production plants that offer their operators an optimal return on investment.

Commenting on this development and the award, Brodl says: "The ethanol industry was established with the goal of reducing our dependency on oil. Thirty years later we need to wear rubber boots on the beach because we are still dependent on oil – in spite of all of the ethanol industry's successes. However, particularly in light of the latest environmental catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico it is vital to push on with this success story and continue to tread this path. We must work harder than ever to communicate to the public the benefits of ethanol for the United States and the environment."

About Vogelbusch (latest update July 2010):

The Vogelbusch Group plans and realizes biotech production plants around the globe. Its customers are companies that process starches and sugars (white biotechnology) and the biopharmaceutical industry (red biotechnology). The company, headquartered in Vienna, Austria, was founded in 1921 and is privately owned. In 2009 the two business units of Vogelbusch GmbH were spun off into separate companies: Vogelbusch Biocommodities GmbH and Vogelbusch Biopharma GmbH, both 100% owned by Vogelbusch GmbH. The Vogelbusch Group employs a total of 125 people and has branches in Katy (Houston), Texas (USA) and Hong Kong (PR China).

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