

2003 Outstanding Contribution Award – Mr. Syd Aldridge

Over the past 25 years, Syd Aldridge has been a driving force at Nutech Precision Metals (initially located in Connecticut), the firm that has manufactured all the pressure tubes in operating CANDU reactors. Since becoming President and CEO, he has ensured that his company continually met the challenge of producing pressure tubes and other reactor-core components to the strict quality standards appropriate to their demanding service conditions.

Syd Aldridge was instrumental in establishing a Nutech extrusion facility in Arnprior, Ontario. This facility enabled Canadian manufacture of pressure tubes for the China Qinshan project and subsequent projects. This avoided the difficulty imposed by the embargo against the sale of U.S.-sourced nuclear products to China. This was achieved by purchasing and installing an extrusion press from Germany that was operational within seven months, while at the same time qualifying a Russian supplier for source material. This facility has since continued as a commercially viable enterprise, extruding and fabricating technically demanding products including other CANDU core components. In addition to his management role, Syd has taken a direct “hands-on” role in the technical aspects of the work, frequently contributing to the optimization of component design. He has provided knowledge and experience in the plant trials of product development programs. In particular, Syd’s contribution to pressure-tube technology has been essential to the recent success of the CANDU export program.