

Canadian Innovation Award for Innovative Business of the Year (2006)

Winner: Flexpipe Systems Inc.



Photo Left to right: Hon. Perrin Beatty, President & CEO, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, Darrell Nimchuk, Director of Finance, Flexpipe Systems Inc., (Award Partner Rep.) Glenn Graves, Vice President, Commercial, RBC Royal Bank.

Flexpipe Systems Inc.

Flexpipe Systems Incorporated is a composite pipe and fitting manufacturer based in Calgary, Alberta. They began in a small office on campus at the Alastair Ross Technology Centre at the University of Calgary. In just five years they have grown to more than 100 employees based out of a 140, 000 square foot facility in Calgary.

The result of their research and development work at U of C is a high pressure, fiber-reinforced thermoplastic continuous pipe for oil and gas gathering applications. The manufacturing process for this product is unique to Flexpipe Systems.

The pipeline uses a dry, or unbonded, fibre composite design – a completely new way of using traditional fibre reinforcements and an innovation that dramatically decreases the material and manufacturing costs.

Their corrosion-resistant pipeline is rapidly gaining market share and mainstream acceptance in the Alberta oil patch because it is easy to use, lasts longer and saves companies money. The pipe is continuous and spoolable so up to a kilometer of pipe can be installed in a single piece without connections or field welding. The pipe can be joined to itself or to traditional steel fittings.

For patenting an innovation that improves efficiency in Canada's vital oil and gas gathering industry, Flexpipe Systems Inc. received the **Innovative Business of the Year** award at the Canadian Innovation Awards.