



- *Kneeling left: Bryan Hoffman, Hoffman Project Services*
- *Standing L to R: Dave Burton, Aecom; Aaron Pooch, Tetra Pak; Michael Spaans, Chair Innovation Park; Henri Hermans, Technopak; Aidan Knox, Apollo Projects; Bryce Weal, Stiles & Hooker*
- *Kneeling right: Mark Hopwood, NDA*

Spray Dryer Facility build to be locally sourced

The new construction of Waikato Innovation Park's product development spray dryer facility began late last month. Originally, the \$11 million spray dryer was to include imported parts. Derek Fairweather, CEO, Innovation Waikato Limited has confirmed that they have been able to find solutions that are Waikato sourced instead.

"We had originally thought we would have to import some of the parts for the spray dryer," Mr Fairweather explained. "But as it turns out, the whole facility will be made by local companies, keeping the 'wealth' in the Waikato."

The construction of New Zealand's first and only independent product development spray dryer will involve several local companies. Specialist New Zealand construction firm, Apollo Projects, will coordinate the design and construction of both the dryer building and site infrastructure works.

"Apollo has been involved with the spray dryer project from the start," says Mike Taylor, Business Development Manager for Apollo Projects. "It's been an enjoyable process to get it to this stage, and the result is testament to the level of expertise and commitment of everyone involved. We specialise in the delivery of food sector projects throughout New Zealand and internationally, and it's fairly unique to be able to work with all local companies on a project of this nature. We are absolutely delighted to be involved with this team and to be a part of real growth for the food industry in New Zealand."

The actual dryer, itself will be developed by Tetra Pak New Zealand. Tetra Pak, whose Hamilton offices are located within Innovation Park, is the world's leading company for food processing and packaging solutions.

Tetra Pak has extensive experience with spray dryers, with recent installations at Fonterra's Edendale site and Synlait near Christchurch.

NDA Engineering – another New Zealand based company – is proud to be working with the Park and Tetra Pak on the manufacture and installation of the stainless steel equipment required for this prestigious project. . NDA Engineering is a fabricator of high quality stainless steel process equipment primarily for the dairy, food wine and pharmaceutical industries in New Zealand and internationally.

“We have been supporting the New Zealand dairy industry for over 120 years and manufacturing spray dryers and evaporators for over 30 years,” says Mike Down, Operations Manager NDA Engineering. “We are really committed to this project as it is unique in its scale and we are excited to be able to be a part of a research and development opportunity in New Zealand. It will allow our dairy industry to become more competitive.”

Technopak Ltd has donated a state of the art packaging system to be used in the facility. The donation will be for a period of four years and will allow Technopak to further develop the equipment in a production environment. Technopak designs, manufactures and installs hygienic bulk dry powder packaging lines for the dairy and pharmaceutical industries. Their lines are built to meet the highest international standards of hygiene.

“This is a very small footprint machine – the first in the world,” says Henri Hermans, Director. Technopak is totally committed to this solid research and development opportunity and sees this as a long-term partnership. We are a small company but this a big thing. Reinvesting in the development of the industry is our way of approaching the market with the future in mind.”

The team at Innovation Park are thrilled with the alliances that have been formed. Michael Spaans, Chairman of the Park, has said the facility is one solution that can help the dairy industry move further up the product value chain.

“With annual dairy exports sitting at just over \$12 billion, the New Zealand dairy industry is one of the country's largest export earners. The majority of our dairy exports are ingredients such as milk powder, butter and cheese. New Zealand dominates the world's dairy commodities markets – that's our core strength and we will keep doing this well.

“Waikato Innovation Park now wants to do our part to help the dairy industry add to this core strength and do even more in the value added products space.

“Our spray dryer will give dairy companies an opportunity to research and develop high-value products, which is very difficult to do in large, commercial factories,” explains Mr Spaans.

The spray dryer is the Waikato component of the Ministry of Economic Development-sponsored New Zealand Food Innovation Network. Waikato Innovation Park's parent company, Innovation Waikato Ltd, has formed a subsidiary – New Zealand Food Innovation Waikato Ltd – to own and operate the dryer. It will open in May 2012 and is the third building on the 17-hectare campus of the Waikato Innovation Park.