

## **Bixby Energy Systems Wins Two More Orders As Chinese Seize Benefits Of Its Coal-To-Clean-Gas Solution**

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[http://www.oilbarrel.com/nc/news/display\\_news/article/bixby-energy-systems-wins-two-more-orders-as-chinese-seize-benefits-of-its-coal-to-clean-gas-solutio/860.html](http://www.oilbarrel.com/nc/news/display_news/article/bixby-energy-systems-wins-two-more-orders-as-chinese-seize-benefits-of-its-coal-to-clean-gas-solutio/860.html)

Earlier this month we reported how Minneapolis-based clean energy technology company Bixby Energy Systems had reached a corporate milestone by shipping its first coal-to-gas unit to China, one of three units on order to that country. Now the company has gone one better, announcing that the Chinese have placed orders for two more units to help beat the severe gas shortages that hit the country last winter. After all, China has plenty of coal it can use to feed Bixby's patent-pending coal-to-gas devolitzation units, an insatiable demand for energy and a pollution problem that needs urgent attention.

The Bixby devolitzation process superheats coal, which has been pre-ground to the size of talcum powder, but, crucially, doesn't burn the coal. This superheating process takes place in a contained environment, preventing carbon emissions. The system doesn't produce the heavy carbon emissions normally associated with other gasification technologies, doesn't consume water and creates no effluent or waste byproducts other than natural gas and semi-activated carbon, a valuable by-product.

A pilot system has been up and running for more than two years in North Carolina, giving the Chinese enough confidence to make their first orders. This month's shipment will be the first serious commercial test of the technology, with the first unit heading to a glass manufacturer. Two more orders have already been received by chemical companies based in China, with the units set to ship over the next two months. The price per unit is in the multi-millions of dollars, said a company spokesman.

The two latest orders involve shipments to Inner Mongolia. The first will lead for a methanol plant in Ordos, Inner Mongolia to provide methane for the production of methanol. The City of Ordos sits on about one-sixth of the total reserves of usable coal in China. The second unit will go to the state owned enterprise which provides heating to the City of Xilinhot, again in Inner Mongolia. The unit will be housed in a municipal heating plant where it will provide clean heat to 200,000 people.

"Establishing a foothold in China is an important strategic move for Bixby, as it demonstrates the flexibility and multiple applications for the Bixby Process," said Bixby chairman and CEO Bob Walker, who founded the company in 2001. "Our system is helping to sustain China's economic growth, while meeting important industrial and environmental needs."

The Chinese will front-run the technology and it will be interesting to see how long it takes other coal powers to switch onto the benefits of the Bixby Process, once it has been proven by multiple orders in China. When Oilbarrel.com spoke to Walker earlier this month, he said the company was in the process of staffing up to handle the anticipated increased order load now that the first units were shipping. "There's interest coming in the door every day from very serious and substantial companies," he said.

Bixby plans to raise additional funding, and is already in talks with financial institutions, in order to expand its business to handle the increased enquiries. It currently builds the units in North Carolina but is in the process of establishing relationships with up to ten manufacturers in the US to handle future demand for the technology.