

PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY

September 2012 Newsletter

The Polaris H.O.T. unit depends upon the input from sensors, various control units (Programmable Logic Control – PLC), and of course software and desktop computers. To make the unit operational, a control room was needed.

A company with a local office, CML Exploration, LLC, had exactly what was needed for “Project Based Learning”: a surplus, unfinished, steel framed structure.



This building will provide an opportunity over the next several months for the students to work as a team to complete the very control room from which operations in the field lab with the Polaris H.O.T. will be carried out. Students will learn to follow directions, team work, and for those new to the trades, how to complete a project.

The interior of the completed control room building will be 9 feet by 14 feet in size. Large enough for controls, an operator, instructor and observers.

During September, other items essential to providing experiences in our “Project Based Learning” program were identified and ordered. Some of the items students are utilizing are an rd8000, a Fisher TW-6, and Magna Trak 102. These pieces of equipment are used for the process of “line finding”, whereby workers are able to detect the location of known and unknown pipelines. Brandon Baker of Green Equipment came to Western Texas College and demonstrated to the students how to use the equipment using our field lab which has actual gas and oil pipelines passing across the field.