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Quantum Environmental Management System Approach Required

Harry E. Gregori, Jr. AICP, Vice President, Environmental Solutions, Inc., lectured on March 13 2008 at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University at Fort McNair in Washington, DC.

In his address to the Environment Industry Study Program class of 2008, Mr. Gregori discussed the small business historical perspective and the forces driving change with respect to manufacturing in the United States. In particular, forces driving change today include: International Terrorism, Nanotechnology - New Chemicals, the Energy Knot - Demand and Diversity, Technology - moving at the 'Speed of Light,' Global Competition - Education, Global Health - Medicine, and the Developing Giants: China and India. "These forces have created a 'Quantum-shock' to our current economic system that requires organizations to take a quantum environmental management system approach to meet the challenges facing us today," said Mr. Gregori. Further, Mr. Gregori described how small businesses have played an important role in advancing technology, particularly in advancing innovation in product development and design. "Leadership and commitment are required in order to overcome the many economic and bureaucratic hurdles that exist for small businesses including the raising of capital, costly research challenges, validation and verification of product performance, and the introduction of products into the market." As an example, Mr. Gregori described the success of a an innovative product that uses coal ash as one it the main ingredients to form a fast drying, high strength, concrete repair material - PaveMend. The product was the result of independent research including the use of many industrial by-products. In the end, coal ash was the material of choice. Once developed, extensive testing was required to validate the effectiveness of the product. Following the commercialization of the product, a separate company was spun off and is successfully doing business with the military worldwide, as well as with many state government organizations, particularly state and local government Departments of Transportation in the Mid-Atlantic States.

About ESI: Since 1990, Environmental Solutions, Inc. (ESI) has dedicated itself to providing environmental solutions integrating innovative processes, state of the art technology, and economics. ESI offers training and consulting, as well as, project development and management, using the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) principals. In addition, the company markets green products created as a result of projects managed by ESI. Environmental Solutions, Inc. is a closely-held, woman-owned business headquartered in Richmond, Virginia. ESI's President, Brenda Robinson, has more than 15 years of experience in a Fortune 500 company and more than fifteen years experience with technology-based businesses and co-founded ESI with her late husband, W. W. "Phil" Robinson. ESI's solutions are applicable, successful, and repeatable, working within your unique organizational requirements. For additional information on how ESI can assist your organization in turning waste (by-products) from a liability into an opportunity, visit us online at www.envirsol.com or call 804.740.5605.

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Quantum Environmental Management System Approach Required, Page 2

Mr. Gregori concluded his remarks with comments on lessons learned. "In many cases, current management systems are not equipped to work in the new 'quantum shock' world order in which innovative systems integration is often discouraged. Mr. Gregori identified actions needed to meet the challenges: "Form an organization-wide 'quantum environmental management systems' task force; make a commitment to change; and in light of 'quantum-shock,' examine international drivers, energy and security, policy, law and regulations, and education and training needs of employees.

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