



Challenge 2011: MTI Goes Green

One of our morning meetings during our biennial retreat in July held a big surprise for the staff—that very day, they would be competing in the MTI Challenge. In the past, the MTI Challenge has brought together two teams over several weeks to use their critical thinking and planning to solve an engineering problem. The teams have built robots to water our plants and transfer toy fish from one bowl to another. This year the game changed slightly when the teams were asked to brainstorm and develop a plan of action to convert MTI to a “green” facility. The teams were given 2.5 hours and a packet of information about reducing environmental impact and the current energy usage throughout the building. In two hours, the teams were asked to write a grant proposal including a financial



The Blue Team presenting their proposal to the judges.

report for the proposed changes to the facility. The teams had to research the feasibility of the proposed changes and provide technical information in a PowerPoint presentation to the judges.

Both teams prepared resourceful and inventive suggestions for the judges. The Red Team suggested turning our roof into a “green roof” complete with various species of native plants. Both teams suggested hand dryers for the bathrooms and a more comprehensive recycling program. In addition, the Blue Team suggested motion-activated lights and a program to reuse packing materials.

Ultimately, the judges decided that the Blue Team would win the challenge on the basis of complete-

ness of their financial report and presentation. We would like to thank the judges, Karen Holweck and Tom and Michelle Ervin, for their fair and enthusiastic assessment of our proposals.



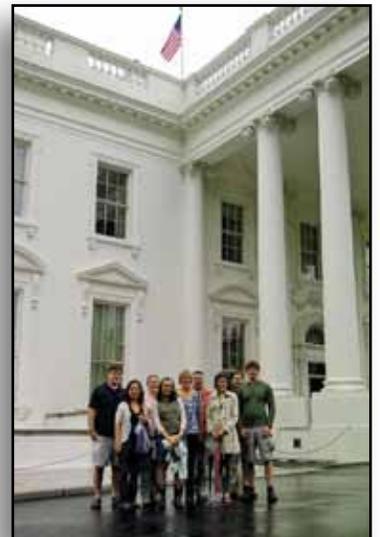
The Blue Team with the Challenge cup.

The Blue Team was rewarded with a day off to spend on a team activity. They decided to visit the White House and go for lunch in Washington, D.C. They were even given a behind-the-scenes tour by a family member of the staff. However, in the end, we all won since the changes around the office will benefit everyone.



The Red Team working on their proposal.

Suggestions from both teams have already been implemented. A new recycling dumpster has been placed outside the facility, making recycling much easier for the staff. Last month we underwent the complicated and expensive process of having a new energy efficient roof installed on our building. Additionally, we are looking into the possibility of installing hand dryers in our bathrooms. To reduce paper usage, we have already started the process of going paperless by scanning office documents, emailing invoices and creating electronic customer files.



The Blue Team at the White House.

If you would like to help our effort and “opt out” of receiving a paper copy of our newsletter please let us know. Being an environmentally conscious company, we are all excited to execute our ideas and make a little bit of change every day.



Bits & Pieces

A reminder: To meet demands for new orders, we are only accepting bird PTT refurbishments from August to February.

Please update your address books with our new email: support@

microwavetelemetry.com

Production slots are filling up quickly for spring 2012, so keep us informed of any potential orders.

Remember we will not begin work on your order until we have your completed Production Form and Purchase Order.

If you would like to receive an electronic copy instead of a paper copy of our newsletter, please let us know via email.