

A 2006 Eco-Efficiency Success Story



Nautel Limited
Hackett's Cove, NS

Making Water Go Further!

Nautel Limited, an ISO9001:2000 registered manufacturer located in Hackett's Cove, created the world's first high-powered solid state radio beacon – a technology now used around the world. Since 1969, Nautel has specialized in the development and manufacture of high power, totally solid state radio transmitters and RF amplifiers for AM and FM radio stations, navigation radio beacons and other applications. Nautel's products can be found in more than 160 countries, on every continent, and in climates ranging from arctic to desert to jungle.

The broadcast industry has seen many innovations since Nautel built its first transmitter more than 35 years ago. The latest innovation in broadcasting is digital radio. HD Radio and Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) are poised to become the greatest revolution in radio broadcasting since the introduction of FM. Not only does a digital signal deliver very high quality audio, it also provides incredible efficiency. In fact, a digital broadcaster can serve a broadcast area using only 1/100th the energy needed with analog (AM and FM) broadcasting.

Each Nautel transmitter is the product of the pride and craftsmanship of dedicated professionals; ensuring customers receive top-notch performance and reliability. Nautel's production process relies on individual people working together as a team to build each transmitter. With 150 employees with an average of 15 years of experience perfecting their craft, Nautel's production staff provides unparalleled quality and attention to detail. That's just one more reason why their transmitters are so reliable. The company is applying the same approach to their environmental performance.

Water conservation is a major focus at Nautel. Although their facility is only a stone's throw from the Atlantic Ocean, the production plant and office water supply comes from a drilled well. To ensure they have a constant supply of water when required, the company has established a very ambitious water conservation program. Ultra low flush toilets and waterless urinals have been installed in washrooms and have resulted in large water savings. Water usage has decreased from 15 gallons per day to 6 gallons per day per employee. Nautel is investigating other methods to further reduce water use, including rainwater harvesting.

Nautel's environmental leadership doesn't end with water savings. All recyclable materials - cardboard, plastic, organics, beverage containers, etc. - are segregated and sent for recycling. Nautel practices lean manufacturing with much of the assembly work done in group cells, resulting in very small amounts of material waste. Shipping crates for finished radio transmitters also double as storage units for the components as the unit is being built. Even the work order paperwork is returned to scheduling to be reused the next time an order is placed for the same model.

All of this goes to show that a world-class manufacturing company, with a global focus, can also pay close attention to the important issues of environmentalism and sustainability.

