



PRESS RELEASE

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Local businessman presents a new agriculture technology to almost 800 delegates from 58 countries at the 19th World LP Gas Forum in Chicago.

*Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Calif., tests **The Stinger** which holds the potential to significantly reduce applications of chemical pesticides for farmers.*

San Luis Obispo, Calif. (December, 2006) - Robert Jacobs, Vice President of Paso Robles based Delta Liquid Energy (DLE) and the chairman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee for the national Propane Education & Research Council (PERC), recently traveled to Chicago to speak at the 2006 World LP Gas Global Technology Conference on *The Stinger* – a propane-fueled steam generation technology that is designed to reduce the use of pesticides in vineyards and orchards.



During the presentation, *Steam Weed Control, A Proven Propane Solution*, Jacobs said, “*The Stinger*, which is currently being tested at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, is a cutting-edge agricultural tool that utilizes propane and water to generate steam to control weeds in orchards and vineyards.” Developed in Australia by D.J. Batchen Pty. Ltd., the *Batchen Stinger* allows farmers to implement an environmentally friendly weed control solution that may significantly reduce applications of chemical **pesticides**. As compared to chemical treatments, workers can re-enter fields immediately and there are no harvest delays or risk of spray drift to sensitive areas near fields. The technology is designed for growers involved in both organic and conventional orchard, vineyard, and bramble crop production.

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Prototypes are being used in research and as test projects around the world in order to receive input for improvement. Cal Poly's Horticulture and Crop Science Department Professor Dr. Ramon Leon is working with one prototype. He is using *The Stinger* prototype in vineyard and greenhouse experiments to discover which Central Coast weeds can be controlled by this type of technology, and at what plant heights it is most effective. "Most steam devices emit steam at 250 to 300 degrees Fahrenheit. The Stinger releases steam at 800 degrees Fahrenheit using a similar amount of fuel, and is more economical than flame devices," said Dr. Leon. "We are getting high levels of control, similar to herbicides and are working with U.C. Davis to test steam on weed seed banks and pathogens in strawberry beds. The Stinger is a good option for organic farms or those who would like to rely less on herbicides, and it can reduce erosion caused by cultivation," he added. *The Stinger* is still in development but is expected to be released to the open market in 2007. For more information on *The Stinger*, go to: http://www.propanecouncil.org/newsroom/press_releaseDetail.cfv?id=34 or www.stingerapps.com.

Jacobs has lived in Paso Robles since 1988 and has worked for DLE since 1991. Delta Liquid Energy is a third generation family-owned and operated business headquartered in Paso Robles, Calif. Jacobs manages the company's ten service facilities throughout California and is an active member of the local and national Clean Cities Coalitions, the Western Propane Gas Association and the National Propane Gas Association. He has volunteered as a member of PERC since 1996 and explains, "The propane industry has evolved into a safer environment due to the safety and education provided by PERC. By attending meetings and conferences regularly, I am able to gain information and knowledge to pass on to the propane industry as well as my employees."

The World LP Gas Association (WLPGA) unites the broad interests of the worldwide Liquefied Propane Gas industry into one independent organization. Established in 1987, the WLPGA is the authoritative voice of the international LP Gas industry with a membership spanning the globe. It brings together private and public companies involved in one, several or all activities of the industry. WLPGA is based in Paris, France. For more information, visit www.worldlpgas.com.

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