

Company Provides Innovative Plants

HOUSTON—Like most startups, Joule Processing LLC formed to meet a specific need.

"My partner and I knew the growing shale plays would require additional gas processing and treating equipment," says Daniel Kennedy, a process engineer who formed Joule with natural gas derivatives broker Benjamin Victor in 2009. "We believed there was a need for a company that would not only provide the equipment, but also would work closely with customers to understand their problems and find a cost-effective solution."

This approach makes life easier for producers, Kennedy says. "Instead of asking our clients to come to us with the plants they need, we look at the details of their application and identify the most cost-effective way to solve it. As a result, our customers do not need to be experts in gas treating and processing," he asserts.

In addition to designing and building processing and treating equipment, Kennedy says Joule will provide or specify supporting equipment. For example, Joule can deliver dehydration systems, source compressors and provide detailed site layouts. "We also can conduct detailed cost analyses and help producers run economics," he reports.

Joule's staff has the expertise to provide producers with the best solutions, Kennedy assures. "We have backgrounds in natural gas processing and treating, and we are great process design and control engineers," he says.

Kennedy's background includes process engineering for the biodiesel and oil and gas industries. He began his career with Plant Process Equipment Inc., where he helped develop a biodiesel plant in Cleburne, Tx., capable of annually producing

12 million gallons of biodiesel. From 2005 to 2007, he served as a pipeline process engineer for J-W Operating Co., where he operated pipelines and gathering systems, and managed gas processing facilities in East Texas, North Louisiana, southern Wyoming and eastern Colorado. After that, he returned to PPE as director of process engineering and project manager for a large biodiesel refinery in East Texas.

Kennedy says his background in other industries helps him shine a new light on oil and gas treating and processing. "Petrochemical and biodiesel plants have much greater process control than even natural gas plants, so I have an excellent knowl-

edge of end process control," he reports. "I know how to properly size instrumentation and where to put it to simplify plant operations."

Joule also is intimately familiar with cutting-edge technology and the latest simulation software, Kennedy continues. "Using simulation, we can run sensitivity analyses that show how a design will perform with different inputs, ambient temperatures and other variables," he says. "This allows us to design systems that will be more energy efficient and cost effective, even with changing conditions, which are part of oil and gas field applications."

The company's plants are highly cus-



Joule Processing says it takes pride in working with customers to come up with the best solutions for their applications. This 5 million cubic foot a day Joule-Thomson plant is in service for Petrohawk Energy Corp. in the Eagle Ford Shale. It is one of four standard-size J-T plants for hydrocarbon dew point control, Joule reports, adding that the skid can be loaded on a flatbed truck.

tomized, Kennedy adds. “We recycle effective plant designs, but we customize the instrumentation,” he details. “Instead of using a specific control system on every plant, we use the one that the operator is most comfortable with, whether that be a touch-screen panel, a field panel,

or a computer in a trailer.”

Kennedy encourages producers and midstream companies to give Joule a shot.

“We are a new company, but we have a lot of energy,” he says. “Since we formed, we have worked on treating and processing projects for clients in South America,

Southeast Asia, India, and the United States. All of our equipment is operating successfully. Our customers have been very happy with the attention we have given them, and we already have had repeat business.” □