

Super pump performance

MTT's device
can deliver
8,000 gallons
per minute

Bernard Chaillot
Business Writer

LOUISA — Marine Turbine Technologies cranked up a fire pump that sounded like a jet airliner at its first demonstration at the Port of West St. Mary.

The innovative super-pump delivers an unprecedented 8,000 gallons of water per minute, nearly seven times as much as the typical fire truck, MTT spokesman Ted McIntyre said, talking over the high whine of the 1,400-horsepower turbine engine.

McIntyre showed off the 150-meter range of the fire suppression system to marine industry and elected officials while touting the pump's potential for private sector and advanced military applications.

"The (U.S.) Department of Defense had us come talk to them and show them what we were capable of at a recent invitation-only briefing," he said. "The Navy has mandated they will no longer use gasoline-powered equipment on ships, and our pump is designed to run on a wide variety of fuels."

Besides versatility that enables it to use diesel, liquid propane gas, natural gas, kerosene or jet fuels, the pump's compact size makes it fully transportable.

"This unit is a little under 13,000 pounds, with



Bernard Chaillot/The Advertiser

Ted McIntyre of Marine Turbine Technologies triggers the firepower of the 1,400-horsepower super pump capable of discharging 8,000 gallons of water per minute at a demonstration recently held at the Port of West St. Mary.

a footprint of only 6 feet by 13-feet-6-inches," he said. "That saves valuable deck space, which is at a premium on offshore supply and other vessels, and we also have a version that is even lighter at less than 8,000 pounds to make it deployable by helicopter."

State Sen. Craig Romero, R-New Iberia, said the cutting-edge technology being developed by MTT is a positive indicator for the economy of St. Mary Parish and Acadiana and a major asset for the port.

"MTT is expanding its facility here by 12,000 feet and showing a real commitment to the port, and growth is always good news in an economy that's

been shrinking in many sectors," Romero said. "We need to support our existing industries as much as we can while we work to attract and create more jobs."

MTT spokesman Monty Warren said the pump, which can dispense foam as well as liquid, is at work on a number of Otto Candies vessels, a global marine leader, is suited to other commercial markets.

"Besides fire suppression, the pumps can be used for irrigation, water jetting and pipeline construction," he said. "We feel marine, oilfield and agricultural applications are only the start."

Warren said MTT has been contacted by the

Navy Special Operations Combat Group to do noise and infra-red testing through a research grant. "Some phenomenal progress has already been made in these areas, and we're excited this could be part of the package on vessels like high speed assault craft," he said.

Glynn Grantham said his industrial and marine business, In-Mar Systems Inc. of Kenner, provides the business end of the pump—the water cannon on top emblazoned with the word SKUM.

"That's Swedish for foam," he said. "This part of the technology comes from Sweden. The space and weight factors here are very precise and well-

balanced because the package is so powerful it has to be tied down when it's pumping."

"We're talking about 5,000 pounds of force here, which is pretty amazing," Grantham said. "It's a fire pump that could push a supply boat down the canal all by itself."

Warren said MTT chose the Port of West St. Mary three years ago "because of the water access, the available building space and room to grow. Port director Phil Prejean and his staff have been great."

MTT makes turbine engines in a wide array of designs including airboats to motorcycles, Warren said.