

HY-BON Helps Operators, Environment

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Midland -- About 18 months ago, the EPA announced some of the most stringent air emission regulations the oil and gas industry has seen in decades. It targets any new tank battery that's gone up since August of 2011. Now, operators are under pressure to get their emissions under control by October of this year, and a Midland-based company is ready to help.

HY-BON (<http://hy-bon.com/>), specializing in the identification, quantification and capture of low pressure gas streams, has been an industry leader since 1952. In fact, HY-BON's founder actually coined the phrase "Vapor Recovery Unit" which is now used in every oil production basin in the world.

"When oil comes out of the ground it's under pressure and so when it's dumped into storage tanks, you have gas that's entrained in that oil that's released and that gas is typically vented or flared into the atmosphere," said Larry Richards, HY-BON president and CEO.

If it's flared gas, there's soot which causes concern from a smog standpoint as

well as from an employee health and safety standpoint.

If it's vented, the gas may be high in Volatile Organic Compounds or VOC's. "That's what the regulatory agencies are focused on because it's heavier than air so it floats downward, and there's concerns that VOC's can be hazardous to breath in," said Richards.

That's where HY-BON can help. Richards said their equipment monitors the pressure on the tanks and captures that gas and allows them to put it into a pipeline so the operator can make money with it. In some cases, they may make two to three times the price of normal natural gas.

"It's got a real high BTU value and a lot of the contracts out here...they can get a premium for that gas," he said.

In the end, it's a win-win for the environment and for the operator, and their products have caught on across the globe. Although HY-BON got their start in Midland, they currently have employees across the U.S. and equipment operating in over 30 countries.

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Page: 1

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