CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

1966
2016

TETRA TECH
Celebrating 50 years of technical excellence

FIFTY YEARS AGO, four entrepreneurial leaders formed Tetra Tech to provide innovative solutions in the areas of coastal engineering, research and development, geophysics, and systems analysis. Since 1966, Tetra Tech has grown into a leading engineering and consulting firm. With 16,000 employees in 400 offices around the world, we provide full lifecycle support in the water, environment, infrastructure, resource management, energy, and international development sectors.

Tetra Tech then and now

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<td>Pasadena, California</td>
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From the CEO

Tetra Tech: what’s in a name?

Leading with science

Let’s get physical

Four decades of supporting water quality programs

Tetra Tech’s history at a glance

Leaders in hazardous waste remediation

Growing our water infrastructure practice

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Problem solvers for the next 50 years
Tetra Tech was founded in 1966 by four technical leaders to provide innovative solutions in the areas of coastal engineering, research and development, geophysics, and systems analysis. Over the past 50 years, Tetra Tech has grown into a leading engineering and consulting firm. We provide full lifecycle support in the water, environment, infrastructure, resource management, energy, and international development sectors.

Our Tetra Tech family has grown from its four founders based in Pasadena, California, to 16,000 employees in 400 offices around the world. While the company’s services and operations have expanded, our underlying principles remain constant. We encourage cross-discipline collaboration and foster the entrepreneurial spirit that enables our employees to find creative solutions and manage challenging projects that others cannot.

To commemorate our 50th Anniversary, Tetra Tech has launched several initiatives to continue our legacy of leading with science and to help foster future generations of engineers and scientists. At the elementary school level, our employees are participating in at least 50 STEM events in communities around the world. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. STEM skills help children understand how the world works and how to solve problems.

We are also expanding our longstanding partnership with Engineers Without Borders (EWB), working closely with university and post-graduate students to assist communities in developing countries. Tetra Tech recently awarded six grants from its 50th Anniversary Global Clean Water Fund to support EWB projects and programs that provide clean water for communities in need around the world, from Mexico to Malawi.

Visit tetratech.com/50th to find out more about our 50th Anniversary activities.

Dan Batrack  
Chairman and CEO
Tetra Tech: what’s in a name?

Tētra Tēch ⁿ. An amazing environmental consulting and engineering firm founded in 1966

You may have wondered about the derivation of our name. Here’s a little history lesson in the etymology of Tetra Tech.

Tetra is the Greek word for the number four, representing the company’s four original, core technical disciplines: geophysics, research and development, coastal engineering, and systems analysis.

Tech is short for the word technical, highlighting the complex nature of these disciplines.

The four men known as Tetra Tech’s founding fathers were well-known technical experts. Their work in four core disciplines informed the course of Tetra Tech’s evolution.

Nicholas Boratynski  
Henri Hodara  
Bernard Le Méhauté  
Donald Stern
Leading with science

AT TETRA TECH, WE LEAD WITH science, meaning the solutions we develop for our customers are based on empirical evidence and sound decision making. Using state-of-the-art tools and innovative strategies, we excel at solving the most complex problems. Our 50-year history of excellence in science and engineering is personified by our technical leaders.

In 1966 Tetra Tech’s original four founders established a company led by technical people solving technical problems. Representing four distinct scientific disciplines, our founders used their academic passion to pursue complex projects and deliver innovative solutions for our clients. These scientists and engineers not only performed some of the most cutting-edge research in the 1960s, they also met with clients, secured new contracts, and managed the company’s finances.

As we grew, our company leaders continued to demonstrate strong technical skills that resonated with our clients and gave credibility to our services. Dr. Henri Hodara, one of our founders, led some of our earliest efforts to build remote-controlled underwater vehicles. Dr. Li-San Hwang, Tetra Tech CEO from 1988 to 2005, conducted pioneering research on the generation and propagation of tsunamis. His expertise in the movement of water in coastal areas led to contracts with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for nationwide flood mapping and set the foundation for our exponential growth in the water sector.

The selection of Dan Batrack, Tetra Tech’s current CEO, as Li-San’s successor reinforced our legacy of technical expertise in our leadership. Dan started at Tetra Tech in 1980 as an arctic research scientist performing field work on the Alaska North Slope. After several years of managing Tetra Tech projects overseas, he returned to the United States to start a commercial environmental assessment and remediation practice.

Through the 1990s, Dan grew an environmental commercial account practice by serving as the project manager and technical lead on some of the company’s largest commercial accounts. Twenty-five years later, Dan continues to support these clients as corporate sponsor and technical reviewer for some of our most complex remediation programs.
Let’s get physical

Before the advent of computer modeling, engineers created physical models to test the integrity of coastlines and structures such as ports and harbors by creating waves and adjusting water flow in an artificial setting. Tetra Tech was at the forefront of building and managing several large-scale physical models. We conducted various physical model studies such as breakwater stability analyses, tsunami wave run-up, beach erosion evaluations, coastal structure design, submarine motion of waves generated by explosions in the sea, and pollutant dispersion in the coastal zone.

The first Tetra Tech physical model facility was a 4-foot by 4-foot by 100-foot-long wave tank constructed under the former Tetra Tech office in Pasadena, California, in 1968. The two-dimensional wave tank was equipped with a plunger-type wave generator capable of creating 1-foot-high waves. Because of numerical simulation limitations, it was necessary to have a three-dimensional wave basin to study wave agitation inside the harbor.

We therefore built a 50-foot by 60-foot wave basin in an empty warehouse in Monrovia, California, and designed and installed a three-dimensional paddle-type wave generator. Our budgets were very limited so employee Albert Yuen even enlisted his wife to help complete the water-tight wave basin.

We kept outgrowing the facilities and when we needed to model the Algerian Port of Bethouia, we rented warehouse space that was used for building the Pasadena Rose Parade floats. We worked double shifts to return the rental space for the New Year’s event. We finally converted an old supermarket near the Pasadena office into a Tetra Tech hydrodynamic laboratory to meet the project demand. We constructed two wave basins and a large wave flume in this new facility.

After many years of building our physical model experience and strong capabilities in coastal and hydraulic engineering, Tetra Tech received additional contracts for the operation and maintenance of both the Chesapeake Bay and San Francisco Bay-Delta models. As the need for physical models diminished, Tetra Tech transitioned to developing complex two- and three-dimensional computer models to predict the movement of water and pollutants through the environment.

As told by Albert Yuen, who has been with Tetra Tech since 1970
Albert Yuen works on Tetra Tech’s Port of Long Beach wave model project in 1972, simulating the effect of waves on a new large container ship due to dock at the port.
Four decades of supporting the evolution of water quality programs

Dramatic images of Ohio’s oil-choked Cuyahoga River spontaneously catching fire in 1969 spurred the formation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), whose mission is to protect human health and the environment. Tetra Tech’s consulting work for EPA began shortly thereafter, with our scientists supporting EPA’s Environmental Research Laboratory in the 1970s. Our team developed quantitative screening methods to assess pollutants in streams, lakes, and estuaries so they could be prioritized for cleanup.

Our early water quality work for EPA helped position Tetra Tech to win its first national water contract in 1979 to support EPA’s marine wastewater discharge management program. Tetra Tech developed new marine and estuarine data analysis and evaluation tools, created model simulations of ocean plume dynamics, designed monitoring programs, prepared technical guidance documents, and developed risk-based assessment methodologies.

In the late 1980s, we transferred this experience to supporting freshwater programs, winning our first national water quality support contract. We helped EPA develop its first suite of surface water and watershed models to predict the fate and transport of pollutants in freshwater systems and developed watershed plans for water bodies throughout the United States. This contract evolved into the National Watershed Protection contract, which Tetra Tech first won in 1987. We have been awarded each successive contract for this program over a span of nearly 30 years.

We continue to build on our institutional knowledge to address critical emerging water resource issues. Our early and continuous work with water programs has provided a foundation upon which Tetra Tech has built its business and gained consistent recognition as the United States’ top provider of integrated water management services. As of 2016, industry publication Engineering News-Record had Tetra Tech ranked #1 in water for 13 consecutive years.

Tetra Tech developed a state-of-the-art numerical model for ocean disposal from barges for EPA in 1973 and adapted the model for use in other projects.
This stream gauging station on Carlls River, Long Island, was part of Tetra Tech’s work on the Nassau-Suffolk 208 Regional Water Quality Study in 1976.
Tetra Tech is founded based on four technical disciplines: coastal engineering, research and development, geophysics, and systems analysis.

Tetra Tech opens its first wave lab in Pasadena, California.

Tetra Tech launches the first remote control submarine for exploration and military applications.

Tetra Tech offers stock on the American Stock Exchange and expands services for flood prediction.

Tetra Tech analyzes data and explores the Alaska North Slope for oil.

Honeywell, Inc. purchases Tetra Tech’s U.S. operations and continues to grow its water, environmental, and data systems practices.

Honeywell sells Tetra Tech’s engineering division to its employees, led by Dr. Li-San Hwang, who joined the company in 1967.

Tetra Tech issues 1.4 million shares of stock on the NASDAQ exchange.


Tetra Tech significantly expands its services in the hazardous waste sector.


Tetra Tech is awarded its first contract for a national water quality program.

Tetra Tech expands its groundwater capabilities.
In the mid-1990s, Tetra Tech grows its water infrastructure practice through architecture-engineering firm acquisitions.

Dan Batrack, who joined Tetra Tech in 1980, becomes CEO.

Tetra Tech continues to build its Canadian practice, acquiring several notable engineering firms throughout the country.

Tetra Tech makes its first international acquisition in Canada.

Tetra Tech grows its full service waste management capabilities and oil and gas services across North America.

Tetra Tech continues to garner top rankings from industry trade journal Engineering News-Record, including maintaining #1 rankings in water, environmental management, and solid waste.

Tetra Tech expands into Chile, following its large global mining clients to a new geography.

Tetra Tech expands into Australia, opening a gateway to new markets in Asia and Africa.

Tetra Tech celebrates 50 years of excellence.

Tetra Tech expands its international development service offerings and presence in Australia, the Asia-Pacific region, and Europe.
Leaders in hazardous waste remediation

TETRA TECH’S ENVIRONMENTAL practice has grown alongside our water business throughout the company’s history. As environmental programs evolved with the establishment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970, we employed our water and environmental expertise to address legacy pollution issues across the United States.

In 1980, the U.S. Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund) in response to significant threats to human health and the environment posed by former and active hazardous waste sites. Some of our early groundwater fate and transport modeling work at sites such as Love Canal in New York was the forerunner to using environmental science and engineering to identify, characterize, and clean up contaminated sites.

Tetra Tech’s involvement in the Superfund program began during those early years and expanded significantly with the acquisition of PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (now EMI) in 1995. Tetra Tech later acquired several other companies to augment our remedial study, design, and construction capabilities—notably NUS and Foster Wheeler Environmental (now CES/ECI operating units).

Tetra Tech now provides remedial services to hundreds of government and private sector clients. Our remedial experience includes contracts with private sector clients and local and federal agencies worldwide. We develop new solutions using emerging technological advancements, including performing remedial optimization studies at more than 100 sites across the United States; implementing groundbreaking use of high-resolution site characterization and 3D visualization tools; and designing and constructing remedial systems using a wide range of innovative technologies.

Our consistent #1 ranking in Environmental Management by Engineering News-Record is a testament to our robust environmental practice.
Growing our water infrastructure practice

TETRA TECH HAS FOCUSED ON providing water management solutions since the company’s founding. In the 1990s, Tetra Tech expanded its water practice to include infrastructure design services to address emerging regulations, increased demand for drinking water sources in drought-prone areas of the United States, and industry requirements for processing produced water from commercial activities.

Over the next decade, we added firms that increased our regional presence in locations such as Michigan, Florida, Colorado, Washington, California, and Quebec. At the same time, Tetra Tech expanded its technical expertise in the fields of nutrient management, desalination, stormwater management, and wastewater treatment technologies.

Tetra Tech has grown into a leading global firm developing innovative solutions for municipal water and wastewater needs. We leverage a global reputation for industry-leading knowledge with a local geographic presence in more than 300 cities across North America. Our experience has supported our ongoing #1 ranking in Water from Engineering News-Record, as well as garnering consistently high rankings in sewer and waste, transmission lines and aqueducts, and water treatment and desalination.

As we continue our legacy of leading with science, we offer our municipal customers a unique combination of high-level technical expertise and in-depth local knowledge and experience.

*Tetra Tech provided engineering services to support the Western Area Wastewater Treatment Plant in Huntsville, Alabama*
Expanding into new geographies and markets

Since Tetra Tech’s earliest days, our teams have worked on projects around the world from our operations based in the United States. Tetra Tech has brought its top-ranked services to more clients in more markets and locations by leveraging our domestic resources internationally and acquiring firms with reputations for technical rigor and innovation that match Tetra Tech’s own. Today more than 35 percent of our annual revenue is generated outside of the United States, primarily by staff located in Canada, Australia, the Asia Pacific region, and Latin America.

Tetra Tech began its expansion into Canada in 2009 with Wardrop Engineering. Wardop specialized in resource management, energy, and infrastructure services. In 2010 Tetra Tech built on its presence in Canadian markets, acquiring firms in both western Canada and Quebec. These firms provided world-class arctic science and geotechnical engineering expertise and specialized expertise in real-time control of combined sewer overflow events.

Beginning in 2011, we expanded our capabilities in the Canadian oil and gas market with strategic acquisitions that focused on providing technical solutions to treat the produced water from the Fort McMurray Oil Sands and provide related services. By the end of 2013, Tetra Tech had more than 3,500 employees in 50 offices across Canada.

Tetra Tech also followed its commercial customers into new geographies in South America and Australia. In Chile, mining engineering firm Metalica Consultores joined Tetra Tech in 2011. Three Brazilian acquisitions followed in the mining, environmental services, and coastal engineering sectors.

In Australia, we expanded our services in resource management and established a presence in the western part of the country. We continued to grow in Australia with our most recent acquisition of Coffey International in 2016, expanding our international development, geoservices, and program management offerings.

As Tetra Tech reaches its 50th Anniversary, we now have 16,000 employees working from 400 offices on 6 continents in the water, environment, infrastructure, resource management, energy, and international development sectors.
Top: Tetra Tech provides ice engineering and related services to support operation of the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road in northern Canada.

Bottom left: Tetra Tech’s operational modeling team supported installation of a 1,700-ton, 50-story-tall crane in Bahia, Brazil.

Bottom right: Coffey, A Tetra Tech Company, worked on the iconic Barangaroo development in Sydney, Australia.
Advancing sustainable solutions for waste products

For decades, Tetra Tech addressed our municipal and commercial customers’ water and environmental needs. We recognized the challenges these core customer groups faced in addressing their growing solid waste management issues. Our municipal clients were challenged by constrained budgets and limited capacity to house growing waste streams. Both groups were challenged to respond to increased needs for sustainable waste management planning and changing regulations.

Managing waste streams requires a complex mix of engineering, scientific, and technical expertise. Tetra Tech expanded our environmental and engineering capabilities to address solid waste issues important to our clients, including developing state-of-the-art processing facilities that sort solid waste, designing landfills with high-tech geomembrane liners, and assisting energy customers with managing residual waste from coal combustion.

Within just a few years of beginning to grow our solid waste practice, Tetra Tech achieved the #1 ranking in Solid Waste from Engineering News-Record. Our approximately 1,100 planners, engineers, geologists, scientists, construction managers, and field support personnel provide responsive and innovative services for customers across the United States and Canada. Tetra Tech supports public and private sector customers in the areas of facility project economics and feasibility studies, planning and permitting, contracting support, sustainability services, public outreach and education, engineering and design, and operations support.

Tetra Tech provided planning, permitting, landslide remediation, liner design, and construction support for the award-winning Frank R. Bowerman Landfill in California
Supporting international development on six continents

As Tetra Tech reaches its 50th Anniversary, the company is working on international development programs in more than 100 countries on 6 continents to alleviate poverty and support improved livelihoods for millions of people. From a $10-million service line in 1991, Tetra Tech’s international development practice has grown to more than $500 million in 2016.

Over the past 25 years, Tetra Tech has leveraged its capabilities in multiple sectors and across national borders. We added specialized expertise in democracy and governance to ensure that stable, sustainable governing institutions and frameworks are in place; energy services to provide needed power to sustain other infrastructure improvements and create climate-smart supplies of energy; and training and public private partnerships capabilities to facilitate capacity building and sustainable solutions. Tetra Tech also applied our engineering and architecture experience in developing countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan, working on essential infrastructure including water supply and airfield facilities.

Today, we work closely with international aid organizations to address issues including provision of basic infrastructure for energy, health, sanitation, and potable water; access to economic markets; and strong justice systems needed to guarantee rights to land, resources, and a secure environment.

Tetra Tech is now positioned as the leading global consulting firm for international development. We are proud to work in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and other international organizations to end extreme poverty and promote sustainable societies.

Through the USAID-funded Liberia Municipal Water Project, Tetra Tech is providing design, execution, and operation of water supply improvements benefitting approximately 30,000 people.
Problem solvers for the next 50 years

As we enter the next 50 years, our focus on water and environment is needed more than ever. Around the world, communities are facing impacts of climate change; increased demands for reliable and safe water supplies; and a desire for a healthy, sustainable environment. Tetra Tech will continue to respond to the need for sustainable solutions as new environmental contaminants are identified, new threats emerge, and new challenges are faced.

Through each decade since its founding, Tetra Tech has incorporated the latest scientific advances to address the most pressing issues at that time. By combining ingenuity and practical experience, we have helped advance solutions for managing water, protecting the environment, and engineering infrastructure for our cities and communities. As the world becomes even more connected and automated, Tetra Tech is poised to adapt new technologies to address emerging needs.

Today, we are at the cutting-edge of managing water systems on a real-time basis using telemetry, continuous water monitoring, and sophisticated water modeling and optimization systems. We are early developers of monitoring systems that collect and analyze vast amounts of data to help clients better manage their infrastructure. We are continuously adapting how we use data collection techniques both above the ground and below the water’s surface to actively assess environmental conditions, respond to emergencies, and identify the most cost-effective solutions for our clients. In urban areas, we develop designs that minimize cities’ impact: water reuse systems, net-zero energy use buildings, and advanced waste recycling systems. We are harnessing mobile technology in developing countries to connect remote communities and improve the livelihoods of coastal fishermen.

We see a future where, as in the last 50 years, each advance in science opens up new opportunities for us to address the needs of a changing planet. We design solutions for our clients and partners today that can become the long-term, sustainable solutions for tomorrow.
Top: Tetra Tech is integrating unmanned aerial vehicles and systems into data collection, monitoring, and other efforts across its markets.

Bottom left: Tetra Tech supports the Greater Los Angeles Water Collaborative in implementing pilot smart cistern systems to harvest rainwater.

Bottom middle: Tetra Tech-supported TV White Space technology provides Wi-Fi to remote areas of the Philippines to improve fisheries management.

Bottom right: Tetra Tech can survey both road and rail surfaces at driving speeds, collecting and analyzing data to support maintenance programs.