

Terminal Velocity

New Solaris facility to offer speedier frac sand delivery, storage

By Christine Reid
Senior Editor

Hurricane Harvey may have diminished the presence of personnel from Houston-based Solaris Oilfield Infrastructure but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm at Thursday's groundbreaking ceremony for the company's \$40 million railway terminal project south of Kingfisher.

Solaris representatives on hand included Robert Goodrich and Landon Anders, both vice presidents of operations and managers of the Kingfisher project; Cindy Durett, chief administrative officer; Greg Garcia, executive vice president for sales, and Travis Brock, adviser.

Joining them were representatives of their site construction and railway construction contractors, Union Pacific Railroad, State Transportation Secretary Mike Patterson, Kingfisher Mayor Steve Richards, Kingfisher County Engineer Heath Dobrovolsky, Kingfisher City Manager Dave Slezcick, City Clerk Brittney Hladik, commissioners Tammy Mueggenborg and Wendell Prim and other members of the community.

Construction is slated to begin immediately on the 300-acre site Solaris is leasing at on East 860 Road, two and a half miles south of Mercy Hospital Kingfisher.

The first phase of the project will consist of an 8,000-foot railway loop, an additional 18,000 feet of sidetrack and six vertical silos capable of holding 30,000 tons of fracking ma-



POINT MEN for getting Solaris Oilfield Infrastructure's new railway terminal in Kingfisher constructed and operational are the company's two vice president of operations (right photo) Landon Anders, left, and Robert Goodrich, who drove the first spikes during a ground-breaking ceremony Thursday at the site south of Kingfisher. State Secretary of Transportation and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson, center, top left photo, visits with Solaris Adviser Travis Brock, left, and Chief Administrative Officer Cindy Durett. Kingfisher Mayor Steve Richards, bottom left, tries his hand at railroad building during the ceremony.

[Photos Courtesy Christina Mathews Photography]

terial known in the industry as "proppant."

The first train deliveries will begin before Christmas, company representatives said.

"This is one of the coolest and fastest moving projects we've had the privilege to be a part of," Goodrich said.

The storage silos are expected to be completed by

mid 2018.

"The skyline out here will be changing but it won't be wind turbines," Anders said.

Solaris has entered a seven-year contract to supply transportation and storage services to one major oil and gas operator and is in discussions for long-term agreements with other producers.

The advantage of the Kingfisher railway terminal and storage facility is its proximity to operating horizontal rigs in the SCOOP and STACK plays (more than 75 rigs are within a 50-mile radius, with more expected to be drilled).

Now fracking materials are trucked in from much

greater distances, increasing both costs and the number of big rigs on the road.

"If you do the math, it's millions and millions of truck miles we're going to eliminate," Goodrich said.

The facility is expected to employ 15-20 people in jobs that will be phased in over the next year. Adding more cus-

tomers will create the potential for more jobs down the road.

Anders and Goodrich used gold-plated sledge hammers to pound in spikes in a ceremonial strip of track to mark the beginning of the project's construction before other participants in the ceremony tried their hand, including Mayor Richards.