Recent acquisition strengthens market position

CH2M HILL’s recent acquisition of DeMil International positions the firm to take advantage of potential significant growth in the ordnance explosives/unexploded ordnance (OE/UXO) market.

Heeding pressure from Congress and environmental groups, the U.S. Department of Defense is expected to receive more than $500 million in annual funding by 2005 for cleanup of UXO on closed, transferred and transferring ranges. The development of new technology is expected to reduce the overall costs for cleanup and environmental protection.

DeMil International’s Donovan Blast Chamber is one such technology, using a closed chamber to safely detonate UXO, obsolete munitions, energetics and certain hazardous wastes—without releasing harmful emissions into the atmosphere, unlike the conventional open detonation/open burning method.

The capabilities of the chamber aren’t the only potential advantage the firm has with OE/UXO work. Ben Redmond, business group practice director, is on the board of directors for the National Association of Ordnance and Explosive Waste Contractors (http://www.naoc.org).

“NAOC’s efforts are helping shape the future of the OE business,” explains Redmond, who was instrumental in founding NAOC nearly eight years ago.

The association promotes the interests of its members and the public in the domain of OE-related work, including safety, environmental protection, pollution prevention, standardization, technology development, quality and public relations.

New technology locates unexploded ordnance

CH2M HILL recently signed a strategic agreement with G-tek, Ltd., of Australia to help introduce its digital geophysical mapping technology into the United States OE market. Known as SAM (sub-audio magnetics), this technology provides for simultaneous magnetic and electromagnetic detection of subsurface UXO and is a leap forward in technology. SAM works in areas that have adverse geology where other sensors won’t work.

In response to the growing need for an improved method of ordnance disposal, CH2M HILL, with its recent acquisition of DeMil International, offers a new, regulatory-approved, clean, environmentally friendly technology for the destruction of unexploded and unserviceable ordnance.