



National Chemical Technician Award Candidate Form

Thank you for your participation in the National Chemical Technician Award program. For each nominee, a completed nomination packet is required. The packet must include, at minimum, the following:

- The completed nomination form
- At least one letter of recommendation from someone familiar with the candidate's work

Other materials can be included, if desired; however, the completed packet, included letter(s) of recommendation and supporting materials, must not exceed six single-sided, single-spaced pages. Type must be at least 10-point font.

[Note: this cover page is not considered part of the nomination packet and should be deleted or recycled prior to submitting the packet.]

The form should expand as needed to include all information you wish to include in the form. All material included in the nomination packet should be cleared for release outside your organization. ***Packets exceeding six pages in length or containing proprietary, confidential, or private information will not be accepted.***

Nomination packets must be received by September 30, 2010. If packets are submitted by email or fax, hardcopies should also be submitted by mail within 7 days of the September 30th deadline, including the original signed letter(s) of recommendation.

Submit nomination packets to

Max B. Saffell
Staff Liaison, ACS Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA)
Office of Technician Education and Resources
American Chemical Society
1155 Sixteenth St. NW
Washington, DC 20036
1-800-227-5558, ext. 8176 (office) | [202-872-6099](tel:202-872-6099) (fax)
cta@acs.org

Contact Max Saffell (1-800-227-5558, ext. 8176, cta@acs.org) with any questions or concerns.

National Chemical Technician Award Candidate Form

Candidate information

Name: C. Dan Ashcroft **Title:** Laboratory Technician Associate
Company name: Eastman Chemical Company
Complete work address: P.O. Box 7444 Longview, TX 75607
Work phone: (903)237-6802 **Email:** ashcroft@eastman.com

Candidate's immediate supervisor's information

Supervisor's name: Ginette S. Tolleson, **Supervisor's title:** Group Leader, Chemicals Research
Ph.D.
Work Phone: (903)237-3717 **Email:** gstolleson@eastman.com

Nominator's information

Nominator's name: Ginette S. Tolleson, **Nominator's title:** Group Leader, Chemicals Research
Ph.D.
Work Phone: (903)-237-3717 **Email:** gstolleson@eastman.com

Candidate Eligibility

All three boxes in the Eligible column must be checked for candidate to be eligible.

	Eligible	Ineligible
1. Is the candidate a chemistry-based laboratory technician, process technician, operator, analyst, or other applied chemical technology professional?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Has the candidate been employed for at least five years as an applied chemical technology professional?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Is the candidate currently a member of the Committee on Technician Affairs Executive Board and/or Advocacy & Public Relations Subcommittee?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Candidate's contribution in six areas of award criteria

Make space as necessary under each category. Total packet, including letter(s) of recommendation, must not exceed 6 pages, minimum 10-point font. Do not include proprietary, confidential, or private information.

Technical Achievements (worth 60%)

For the R&D Department of the Texas Operations of Eastman Chemical Company (TEX), Dan is the expert on the building of laboratory and bench unit scale continuous units and he is the key person that technicians, chemists, and management go to with any questions or requests. The design and building of these units requires both a good chemistry background but also a very good practical engineering background. One recent project is a very good example of his achievements: he designed and built this unit from a basic process flow diagram with very little engineering help. It was built in 6 months, while operating another unit and training a technician, and when the safety peer review of the unit was carried out (which he participated in), only minor changes were needed. This unit was designed to operate at 2500 psi and 600C, had on-line analysis, Delta V control system, feed control, and appropriate relief systems. To do this, Dan interacted with external suppliers of equipment for specifications and quotes, internal engineers for sizing, maintenance/electricians for large maintenance items and electrical connects, and code and inspection to ensure all needed safety systems were in place. The unit was also designed with flexibility in mind and required very little modification to be used for continuous operation for another project. An illustration of how his skills would be replaced if ever needed was the building of the "N" Pilot unit which had to be built without his assistance due to his workload. That unit required a Ph.D. Chemist and Ph.D engineer, engineering, and maintenance

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to build and took a longer time (~ 1yr) to build. His ability to install and program Camille control systems and GC equipment has been instrumental in having efficient bench units and for the updating of the laboratories at TEX.

Dan has contributed to projects that add up to over \$12M in NPV since 2000. For one of these projects, Dan designed (with others), built, operated, and trouble-shooted a unit that was directly connected to a semi-works facility (received feed from the facility). Dan's determination made it possible to run the unit continuously for most of a year to meet a tight deadline for recommending a final catalyst for use in the soon to be commissioned commercial plant. Dan concurrently supported the semi-works operation with GC method development and trouble-shooting and he would carry-out other necessary experiments when unexpected process events needed information to help trouble-shoot the problems.

Dan has also been instrumental on projects which involve improving existing commercial processes. In one instance, after running a series of experiments, he communicated his results to the project team in a persuasive manner. He was then able to observe operations at the plant and used this information to communicate with the department supervision to help them understand the risks and benefits to the improvements found with his work and convinced them to carry out the plant experiments when scheduling allowed.

Other (Considered together to make up the remaining 40%)

Leadership/Mentoring (1-15%)

Dan leads our preparations for the annual lab and bench unit area safety, health, and environment (SHAPE) audits and assumes a leadership role for the building and operation of bench units both inside and outside. Dan has mentored both our newest technicians and our new chemists. He shares his knowledge of bench unit building and operation and also gives his opinion on technical questions. He is our expert in data acquisition systems and mentors others in its use. As a company expert on these acquisition systems, Dan has been part of a cross-function team for lab automation. Dan is consulted in most if not all Process Safety Reviews and Process Hazard Analyses. Dan keeps track of our housekeeping inspections and coordinates the completion of these by the group's members. Dan saw a need for a well organized and maintained storage facility for the department's excess equipment. He campaigned for the space, organized the use of the facility, worked with the group to move items in, and monitors its use and makes recommendations when he sees improvement opportunities. The space is now well used and continues to be well maintained. Dan has participated as a beta tester for the group as part of a company-wide team for the implementation of e-notebooks and has been on teams for safety cylinder/relief values, the site incident investigation team, and the poster session committee for one of the company's technical conferences. He has recently been named to a cross-functional company-wide team on Documenting Experimental Results.

Number of communications/publications (1-5%) Please do not include titles.

Dan has been the author of 10 and contributor to 18 technical and invention reports. He has presented talks and posters at three internal Eastman technical conferences. He is the author of over 8 procedures (group, department, and site).

External publications, presentations, patents (1-5%)

Dan has been active in the local schools and has given presentations and demonstrations at 7 of these schools. When Dan was the president of the Lion's Club, he gave presentations to the club in that role and one presentation is mentioned below in the community activities section.

Internal presentations, publications (1-5%) Include SOPs, presentation to teams, etc.

Dan has been an author on 5 technical reports on Epoxybutene technology (EpB), one technical and one invention on Methyl Isopropyl Ketone (MiPK) technology, two technical reports on a corporate research project, and one invention report on cis-tetramethylcyclobutane-1,3-diol. Dan has given 2 presentations on different aspects of bench unit safety, one on sample cylinder safety, and presentations on a MiPK, EpB, Aldol, and corporate research projects. Dan is comfortable speaking to a group and has given presentations to the research group, to safety committees, to the technology community during Eastman Technical Conferences, and to management.

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Contribution to quality, safety, and other initiatives (1-5%)

Before starting at Eastman, Dan's previous jobs involved setting up a safety program and managing a safety program. At Eastman, Dan has used this experience to identify needs, start programs, and maintain them. One program he started involves managing preparations of the group each year for the annual SHAPE audit. He manages the sample cylinders for the lab, ensuring that all inspections are up-to-date. He worked with site personnel to develop the site GOP for the sample cylinders. Dan attends all of the safety reviews on units built in the group and provides information and shares concerns and is respected for his expertise in building lab and bench units. He saw a serious need for an organized area for equipment storage and persuaded management to allow the use of part of an adjacent building to be used for this purpose. He is very proactive at bringing up concerns about keeping it orderly and works with others to accomplish this.

Awards (1-5%)

Dan has not received an award yet that I know of but he deserves one either for his community work or his work as a technician.

Professional and community activities (ACS, AIChE, outreach, etc.) (1-10%)

Dan regularly conducts chemical demonstrations and career talks to grade and middle school students in the Longview area. He would talk with the Teachers so that the demonstrations would be appropriate for what they were teaching and then he would practice the complicated experiments with the 1 or 2 other volunteers. The demonstrations were a big hit and they would stress the importance of safety and that science and chemistry are fun. During the career talks, he would place special emphasis on encouraging boys and girls to consider careers in science and engineering.

As part of the Lion's Club Service organization, he volunteered to be the coordinator for the bus that they sent to the Lion's Camp for Handicapped Children every Summer. He would find campers, get applications completed and turned in, arranged the transportation and recruited volunteers. Dan would work with people to identify children and worked with their parents to get the forms filled out correctly. He arranged volunteers and snacks for the 8 hour bus ride and comforted them on the way (some had never left home). 30-40 children would attend the camp and Dan would make sure they got there and back safely and had fun on the way.

When Dan was president of the Lion's club, the club was getting short on funds due to members that were complacent with the fundraising activities. He pulled data together on several years of projects and fundraising activities and he gave a "State of the Club" address with overheads showing all of the good projects (eye glasses for children, summer camps, Leader Dogs for the Blind, etc.) and their costs and compared this to the funds available. He then challenged the group to decide on what services they would not provide that year. The club then was energized to come up with new fundraising activities so they could fund the projects. Many members thanked him for presenting the financial situation in this new way.

Dan has also been an active band booster for Longview High School. He was always active with the activities that his two children participated in during school. His daughter is now off at college and his son is in the military.

National Chemical Technician Award Candidate Form

August 19, 2010

To Whom it May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter on behalf of the nomination of Dan Ashcroft for the American Chemical Society National Chemical Technician award. I have worked with Dan for five years and he is well deserving of this recognition.

Dan's ability to build laboratory scale units that can replicate conditions in a full commercial plant is nothing short of amazing. He is well versed in all matters of vessels, valves, and electronics necessary to setup an apparatus that can run continuously and deliver excellent data for whatever experiments we chemists desire. Upon being informed of the reactions to be carried out and the conditions under which they will be performed, Dan can quickly formulate and begin to implement a unit design that will far exceed our expectations of what is possible.

In addition to his skills as a unit engineer, Dan possesses a fundamental understanding of chemistry which enhances his ability to assist in successful project implementation and completion.

Dan is a great co-worker who is always willing to help when asked and goes the extra mile, sometimes working odd schedules, to see that a project is completed.

For these and many other reasons, Dan would make an excellent choice as National Chemical Technician.

Sincerely,

Damon R. Billodeaux, Ph.D.
Principal Research Chemist
Texas Operations
Eastman Chemical Company

September 20, 2010

To whom it may concern:

It is both a pleasure and an honor to write this letter of recommendation for Dan Ashcroft in regards to his nomination for the ACS National Chemical Technician Award. I have known and worked with Dan since 1992, so I believe I have a good understanding of his skills and ability.

Dan was initially hired by Eastman as an analyst based on his previous educational and work experience. Although he had to take a substantial pay cut, Dan thought in the long run it would be good move for his family. Without any doubt, he made an excellent decision. Dan showed a desire to advance from the start. He immediately took the college courses he still needed — organic chemistry and physics — which he aced at a local community college. Although Dan had a basic working knowledge of process equipment, he had limited experience working with organic chemicals and performing typical technician duties. However, Dan was a quick learner and was performing at technician level within a short period of time. One of the first assignments I gave Dan was the responsibility of looking after the day-to-day needs of a complicated pilot plant for a novel continuous process we were developing. These included performing the daily gas chromatography analyses, ordering necessary supplies and chemicals needed for continuous operation, and helping trouble shoot problems with the process. I realized very quickly that Dan was going to be one of our best technicians.

Dan has always had that “can-do” attitude that is necessary in developing a new process for commercialization. Yet, Dan never compromises on safety in any aspect of his work. For example, he has headed up the department’s annual Health, Safety, and Environmental Audit for a number of years. Over the years Dan has become one of Eastman’s experts in constructing and operating micro-reactors, bench units, and pilot plants to develop new catalysts and processes. Indeed, his opinion and guidance is sought by chemists, engineers, and technicians not only here, but also at our corporate site in Kingsport. Dan has developed numerous technical skills and is indeed a company expert in several areas. Others routinely seek out his advice concerning gas chromatography, use of mass flow controllers, data acquisition and control software and hardware, pumps, pressure controls, pressure fittings, and many other areas. Working with Dan has been a pleasure because of his initiative. I never have to ask him to order supplies or if our equipment is working properly because he has already taken care of it. Many times I have given Dan a rough sketch of a new bench unit or pilot plant and leave it to him to work out the details. This is not something that can be done unless the person is highly competent and has excellent decision making skills. Thus, the combination of Dan’s technical skills, his work attitude, and his many other skills easily make Dan the best technician with whom I have been associated with at Eastman. I fully recommend him for the ACS National Technician Award.

Sincerely,

Jerome Stavinoha, PhD
Research Fellow

Andrew A. Makowski
Principal Development Chemical Engineer
P.O. Box 511
Bldg 231, Room 419
Kingsport, TN 37662

August 30, 2010

American Chemical Society
National ACS Chemical Technician Award

To Whom It May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to recommend Mr. Dan Ashcroft, a Laboratory Technician Associate at the Eastman Chemical Company Longview, Texas site, for the National ACS Chemical Technician Award. I have known Dan since about 1996 and I enjoyed working closely with him on several projects before my transfer to Tennessee in 2008. He is without question the most capable and effective chemical technician I have ever worked with.

The last project I worked on with Dan was a hydrogenation bench unit. On that project, he helped to develop the flow sheet, participated in the process hazard analysis, specified and purchased equipment, and then built and ran the unit. The bench unit provided significant design data for one of Eastman's most important growth platforms, and it is primarily Dan's achievement that the unit was built on schedule and that it operated both safely and reliably. While this is only one example, it is typical of the results Dan has achieved on every project he's worked on since I've known him.

I hope that you will consider Dan for the Chemical Technician Award. He has my unreserved support.

Sincerely,



Andrew A. Makowski