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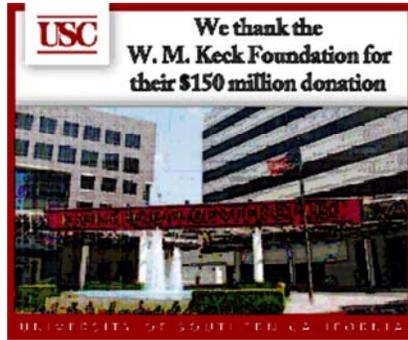


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## O.C. firm offers Japanese nuclear plant help

March 14, 2011 | By MARY ANN MILBOURN

COSTA MESA – **Ceradyne Inc.**, the maker of specialized ceramics, offered on Monday to help Japan control the radiation at its failing nuclear power plants with the boron products the Costa Mesa company produces.

"Elemental boron is widely recognized as a neutron absorber," said Joel P. Moskowitz, Ceradyne chief executive.

He said the company has both boron carbide, which can be made into rods to control radiation, or enriched boric acid, which can be dumped into the power plant's cooling water. The Russians used boron carbide during the Chernobyl nuclear power plant meltdown.

Enriched boric acid may be of the most use because it is 500 percent better than natural-occurring boron in reducing radiation, Moskowitz said.

He said it is routinely used at nuclear power plants to reduce pipe corrosion and as a safety element because it will absorb extra radiation.

Ceradyne is one of the few suppliers of enriched boric acid and the company has ample supplies, Moskowitz said.

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"We are in conversations now," Moskowitz said.

Ceradyne's offer comes four days after the company announced it had acquired a minority interest in **Yamanaka EP Corp.** in Kyoto, Japan for an undisclosed amount.

Ceradyne, through its subsidiary Ceradyne Boron Product, has had a relationship with Yamanaka for 15 years, supplying it with nuclear power plant and semiconductor materials. The investment is part of what the company called a plan to have an "on the ground" presence in Japan.

Yamanaka, now called Yamanaka Ceradyne, is located south of Tokyo and was unaffected by the earthquake and tsunami that ravaged Japan's northeastern coast.

Moskowitz said Yamanaka is representing the company in its conversations with Japanese officials about the boron.

Ceradyne may best be known most recently for the specialized body armor it has supplied to the military during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. In addition to its boron products, the company's specialized ceramics have been applied to a variety of uses ranging from aircraft and automotive to medical and dental products.

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