

*Supporting letter in favour
of Dr.H.Tracy Hall*

Security DBS

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Brussels, February 4, 1999
Re: R&D/020499/RD

Dear Sirs,

I would like to thank the great scientist Tracy Hall for his research and development work in the diamond synthesis.

Being one of the promoters of specialized drill bits using polycrystalline diamond, usually known in the drilling industry as PDC bits or fixed cutters, I do believe indeed that we must thank the scientist who discovered the way to make these highly performing products which allow us to drill through geological formations, that were non-drillable economically in the past.

I visited several times the set up of Megadiamond near Salt Lake City which is equipped with impressive cubic presses - invented and developed by Tracy Hall - and I was convinced that these presses would have a bright future. Today, probably more than 70% of the PDC used in the oil field industry are produced on presses like these, able to manufacture reliable pieces of the best quality.

I should like to add that due to this high quality, the PDC marked developed fast and will continue for many years. They will probably be used also in other applications.

Let me give the example of the North Sea: oil production would not exist - or would be a marginally small area - without PDC bits and the same is true for other expensive offshore operations.

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As far as other applications are concerned, I think of the important natural stone cutting, of masonry as well as mechanical industries.

Scientists like P.W.Brigdman and H.T.Hall who have pioneered the high pressure - high temperature technology have revolutionized the industry.

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. DELWICHE,
Sr. Vice-President of Technology
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