

Frontier a finalist for St. Andrews project

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Frontier Construction Co. is one of four finalists invited to bid on Phase I of a massive irrigation reconstruction project in the birthplace of golf. The St. Andrews Links Trust, which oversees administration of the world famous Old Course — in addition to the town-owned New, Jubilee, Eden, Strathtyrum and Balgove courses — has decided to replace the antiquated patchwork systems at all six layouts.

A centralized irrigation system has been custom designed by Robin Hume and Associates of Shrewsbury, England. Toro will provide the irrigation heads, and the Trust will soon choose an irrigation contractor to handle the system's complicated installation. Based in Jones Mills, PA, Frontier Construction is the only U.S. firm among the four finalists.

"We're honored to be named among the final four," said Frontier President Nick Scigliano, "and we're excited about the prospect of working in St. Andrews. What construction company wouldn't jump at the chance to work on such hallowed ground?"

Hume has designed a system whereby all six courses will be fed from a single centralized pump station. While the head greenkeeper at each layout will have a subcontrol unit, Links Manager Ian Forbes — who oversees maintenance of all six courses — will control the master unit.

"The conservation implications are significant," Scigliano explained. "With the new system, the links manager will be able to allocate only the water each individual course needs.

"Some have questioned whether St. Andrews is going overboard on the ir-

rigation issue," Scigliano continued. "But it's important to understand The Trust has only chosen to replace what's already there. And what's there is an antiquated, patchwork system."

The four finalists have been invited to bid only on Phase I, which encompasses renovation of the Balgove, Eden and Strathtyrum courses; work on the Old, New and Jubilee courses will follow next year. The contract stipulates that Phase I be completed by spring 1999, meaning the chosen contractor must install more than 1,500 irrigation heads on three separate courses while working through Scotland's bleak winter months.

"It's a very aggressive schedule," said Scigliano. "The timing presents a major challenge."

Frontier Construction is one of the golf industry's busiest irrigation contractors and course construction firms. During the past 12 months, the Frontier team has completed 18-hole irrigation installations at Duquesne (PA) Golf Club; Sugar Creek Golf Course in Lima, Ohio; St. Clair Country Club outside Pittsburgh; Windber (PA) Country Club; and Coamo Springs Golf and Tennis Club in Coamo, Puerto Rico.

No less active on the course construction side, Frontier also built Coamo Springs, an 18-hole Ferdinand Garbin design. Other recently completed new construction includes a fourth nine at Lindenwood Golf Club, McMurray, PA; nine holes at Red Oaks Golf Club, near Bloomington, Ohio; and a second nine (sub-contracted from The Bruce Co.) at Treesdale Golf & Country Club in Gibsonia, PA.

AgriBioTech seeks to increase stock values

AgriBioTech Inc., a leading forage and turf grass seed company, has hired an investment

bank to attract buying interest from major chemical and life sciences firms that want to gain a foothold in the biotech seed industry.

AgriBioTech has a 40% share of the US forage and turf grass seed market, strong germ plasm and biotechnology agreements with various companies that give AgriBioTech access to more technology.

Worldwide biotechnology research alliance formed

Dow AgroSciences LLC and Rhone-Polenc Agro signed a letter of intent to conduct research in the field of plant biotechnology to develop genetically modified plants and seed products containing multiple traits. This proposed research alliance supplements the proposed collaboration between Rhone-Polenc Agro and Mycogen Corporation, a majority-owned subsidiary of Dow AgroSciences, by adding non-Bt insect control proteins.

Heritage® fungicide approved for turfgrass use

Heritage fungicide from Zeneca has been granted approval for turfgrass disease control for lawn care and sports turf by EPA. Previously only registered for use on golf course turf and sod farms, Heritage can now be used for lawn and sports turf for more than 18 turfgrass diseases.

Corrections

In the LM 100 article (Sept. 1998, p. 18), we incorrectly stated the variety of bentgrass being used at Pinehurst Resort & CC's famed #2 course. The correct variety is in fact Penn G-2, which is also currently in use on Pinehurst's #1, #5 and #8 courses.

Also, in the LM 100 article, Environmental Industries, Inc., Calabasas, CA, reported 1997 revenues of \$351 million, 17% more than 1996. 1998 anticipated growth is about 21% with sales of about \$425 million.

We regret any confusion this may have caused.

[CLIPPINGS]