

SPLASH SHOT

■ When taking a closer look, the smooth completion of Operations Challenge relies on numerous pieces including competitors, equipment, judges, volunteers, sponsors, and staff. The intricate competition can be compared to the inner-workings of a clock; each piece plays an integral role and effects the others. Kieffer Photography





A total of 42 teams competed in the national 2016 Operations Challenge competition. Successfully conquering each of the competition's events, which includes the Process Control Event (pictured), requires team members to have diverse background and strengths. The broad spectrum of competitors takes center stage in the December issue of *WE&T*.

The Process Control event at WEFTEC® 2016 incorporated new technology – the OpTool™ program developed by Hydromantis Environmental Software Solutions Inc. (Hamilton, Ontario).

“There are some things that operators know and do ... that don't translate well into a written test,” said Mike Ross, the event's coordinator. “This process simulator, by being essentially a virtual wastewater plant, has allowed the operators to demonstrate skills without having to grab a piece of paper and a calculator.” While the simulator doesn't replace the need to do calculations, it showcases more of an operator's skills and better reflects their daily, hands-on responsibilities, he said. Kieffer Photography

