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New-generation boiler introduced

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A U.S. government-supported energy project pioneered in Alabama is going public today at a gasket manufacturing plant in Alabaster.

Specification Rubber Products has been home for the past 18 months to the natural-gas industry's next-generation technology, called the Super-boiler. Gas people say it's far more efficient, cleaner and cheaper than older boilers that are used to create steam, which accounts for 31 percent of industrial energy use.

The boiler installed at Specification Rubber was the prototype of the new technology, and the Energy Department, which helped pay for the project, says it has performed as advertised. Alabama snagged the first copy with the help of Alagasco, a member of the trade group Gas Technology Institute, which secured the government money to aid manufacturer Cleaver-Brooks in developing the boiler.

All parties plan on introducing the boiler today at Specification Rubber at 9:30 a.m., after the lengthy trial and

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