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Production Control Services Awarded Patent for Multi-Stage Tool

Frederick, CO, March 22, 2011 – The [multi-stage tool](#) developed by [Production Control Services](#) (PCS) was recently awarded **U.S. patent number 7,878,251** for unique design features which enable the tool to be easily reset inside a well's tubing. PCS filed a provisional application for the patent in March 2007.

A typical multi-stage plunger lift system includes a bottom plunger, a multi-stage tool set about 40-70% down the well tubing, and a top plunger. It is common to set a multi-stage tool, test it, and then determine that the tool should be set at a different depth. In order to reset a conventional multi-stage tool, it must be pulled entirely out of the well by wireline, redressed, and then reset in the well tubing.

The **resettable locking mechanism** on the patented PCS multi-stage tool saves operators time and money because it enables the multi-stage tool to be easily reset inside the well tubing without the need to pull the multi-stage tool entirely out of the well.

Additionally, the PCS multi-stage tool can be pulled out of the well tubing more easily and without the debris often caused by conventional multi-stage tools. When a conventional multi-stage tool is pulled from a well, its rubber seal often breaks apart as it catches on equipment inside the well tubing. The pieces of broken rubber fall down the well and can cause problems with the plunger lift system.

The **seal element** (also called the pack-off) on the PCS multi-stage tool is designed so that its inner diameter gets narrower during removal. This allows the multi-stage tool to be removed easily while keeping the seal element intact, minimizing or entirely eliminating associated debris in the tubing.

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Jeff Giacomino, President, states, “PCS has been a leader in designing top-performing plunger lift equipment for more than 25 years. When you consider our investments in research and development, advanced manufacturing and hands-on field testing with our customers, it’s easy to see why we are often imitated but rarely duplicated. Our multi-stage tool simply performs better – and that means increased production for our customers.”

[Multi-stage plunger lift](#) is a cost-effective artificial lift method that extends the range of typical plunger lift applications. It has been successfully employed to optimize production in marginal wells, wells with high liquid volumes (e.g., oily gas wells) and horizontal wells. It is an economical alternative to pumping units because of the low associated capital and operating expenses. Like a traditional [plunger lift system](#), it is entirely mechanical and requires no equipment or expense for power or fuel.

About Production Control Services

For over a quarter century, Production Control Services (PCS) has been a leader in well production optimization. We offer [PCS Plunger Lift](#), [Opti-Flow™ Gas Lift](#), [Nitro2Go™ Nitrogen Generation](#) and [PCS Well Site SCADA](#). PCS employs local production experts in nearly 30 locations across the U.S. and Alberta, Canada. The company has been awarded more than 20 patents for its continuous design improvements in plunger lift equipment. For more information about the [PCS multi-stage tool](#), please visit our [web site](#) or contact information@pcslift.com.

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Addendum: PCS Multi-Stage Tool Illustration (Open Position)

U.S. Patent Number 7,878,251

