

Milestones and Moving Ahead

Milestones: Electronics Inc.'s 40th Anniversary

January 2014 marked the 40th anniversary of Electronics Inc. (EI). I started EI in 1974 with the intent of supplying process controllers to Wheelabrator Air Pollution Control Division for their dust collectors. Upon the successful delivery of the process controllers, Wheelabrator Blast Cleaning Division asked me to furnish a media flow monitoring system and controllers for a Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet project. The project had 16 abrasive wheels on a large monorail peen-forming machine. Looking for more opportunities, I then developed a media flow valve for air-type peening machines that I named the MagnaValve®. It was so well received that it became the impetus for a complete product line for the shot peening and abrasive blast cleaning markets.



JACK CHAMPAIGNE

I couldn't find suitable advertising opportunities for the MagnaValve® so I started *The Shot Peener* in 1986. To help underwrite the cost of the publication, EI began marketing Almen strips, introducing the concept of graded strips to meet the needs of various industries including automotive and aerospace. That's a very brief history of how and why our two main product lines, the MagnaValve® and Almen strips, and *The Shot Peener* were launched.

Electronics Inc. would then go on to launch many more firsts: The first shot peening education workshop in 1991, the first *Shot Peener of the Year* award in 1992, the first online library devoted to shot peening and blast cleaning in 1995, the first FAA-approved source for shot peening training in 2001, the first polished and numbered Almen strips in 2011, and other product innovations through the years.

Moving Ahead

Electronics Inc. has moved four times to accommodate its growth. In 2002, the company moved into its present facility—a 24,000 square feet building on the St. Joseph River in Mishawaka, Indiana. EI is in the process of expanding the company's manufacturing capabilities and is adding workflow and technology innovations. Watch for new product developments, services and ways of supporting our customers later this year.

In This Issue

Why EI keeps pushing the boundaries is evident in this issue of *The Shot Peener*. Companies like Progressive Surface are developing machines to keep ahead of the rapidly changing demands of the aerospace industry—suppliers must keep pace with their customers' innovations. I have to admit, however, that I wonder if some of the technologies in the 3D printing article will eventually limit the need for shot peening, but I am encouraged when I learn that companies like Peening Technologies are already taking advantage of 3D printing. And I'm always encouraged when I read material by David Kirk and John Cammett. They are two of the finest minds in the shot peening industry and both have a talent for making complex topics understandable.

My marketing team often hears me say, "This is fun." And I really mean it, I'm very fortunate to be a part of an industry that I enjoy so much.

THE SHOT PEENER

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