

# MOBILE HYDRAULICS



IFH Group, a specialist in hydraulic reservoirs for equipment such as telehandlers and aerial reach platform trucks, recently completed the second of two facility expansions that have enhanced the company's fabrication capabilities.

## TANKS FOR THE GROWTH

Second plant expansion enhances capabilities for reservoir and fuel tank fabricator IFH Group

**S**ometimes, all you need to take a significant step forward in business is just a bit more space in which to operate. And for the Innovative Fluid Handling (IFH) Group, a second expansion in less than two years has the company seeing bigger things ahead — literally and figuratively.

The IFH Group, Rock Falls, Ill., is a metal fabricator specializing in custom hydraulic oil reservoirs and fuel tanks for mobile on- and off-road equipment such as combines, rough-terrain forklifts, earthmoving equipment, cranes, grounds maintenance equipment, wheel loaders, as well as fluid storage and dispensing systems for oil and lube rooms and mobile lubrication carts. Late last year, the company added approximately 21,000 sq.ft. to its manufacturing facility. That increase comes just after a 5000 sq.ft. expansion in early



As part of its expansion, IFH has expanded its nonferrous production capacity for reservoir and tank applications that require custom aluminum fabrications.

2011, and the result is a total of more than 127,000 sq.ft. under roof.

Yet in both cases, the idea was more

than just gaining some elbow room, according to IFH Group President Keith

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Ellefsen. "The first was for the addition of a brand new batch powder coating system to accommodate large tanks and weldments," Ellefsen said. He added that the larger, more recent expansion houses IFH's nonferrous manufacturing lines, which significantly enhances its capability for the production of aluminum sheet steel for reservoirs, tanks and other custom fabrications.

The second addition, which took approximately eight months from start to finish, has enabled IFH to streamline all areas of production from incoming raw materials to shipment of completed fabrications and tanks and shortened lead times to customers, Ellefsen said.

"This also enables us to expand our ferrous manufacturing, by creating additional capacity for steel, stainless steel, and aluminized steel — increasing our capability for supplying large fabrications and tanks," Ellefsen said.

"We wanted to streamline the nonferrous products to better react to our customers' schedules. We also wanted to isolate the nonferrous from ferrous to avoid contamination issues prevalent with the two types of materials."

In terms of material preference, "it all depends on the application," Ellefsen said. "Traditionally, it has been steel, stainless steel or aluminized steel. We are starting to see on- and off-road application opportunities opening up for aluminum."

IFH can supply tanks and reservoirs in a broad range of sizes, from 1 to 500 gal. "and in some cases larger," Ellefsen said. "We have dedicated prototyping cells, dedicated employee weld testing cells and have added four major welding cells with large-capacity material handling equipment. There are many more improvements on the horizon. Our tank business — fuel and hydraulic — was great in 2012. We expect it to grow both organically and in new business for 2013." dp



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**MONICO:** Monico has hired **Matt Olinger** to serve as a senior electrical engineer. Olinger, who has more than 10 years of experience in programming, hardware and control systems, previously worked for TAC Americas (Schneider Electric), Bradley University and Belcan Engineering. Olinger is the 11<sup>th</sup> employee on Monico's staff and the third added in the past seven months.

**TWIN DISC:** Mill Log Equipment Co. DBA Twin Disc Mid-Atlantic, Twin Disc's newest full service distributor, has hired **Jason Holland** as the territory manager for the southern mid-Atlantic states, which include North and South Carolina.



**J. Holland**

Holland will operate out of the new sales office in the North Carolina region and will be an extension of the Rock Hill, S.C., location. He reports directly to Mill Log Equipment Group of Companies' Director of Sales & Marketing, **Don Lindsey**.

**DURST:** Durst, Clinton, Wis., announced that **Terry McCormick** has been promoted to vice president, business leader, succeeding Bernie Nielsen, vice president and general manager, who retired. Durst, a division of Regal Beloit America Inc., manufactures gearboxes for the agricultural, construction, oil and gas, and industrial markets.

McCormick is responsible for the day-to-day operation and profit and loss of the Durst division, as well as the strategic direction of its brands and products.

McCormick comes to Durst from Regal Beloit's corporate headquarters, where he had served as director of customer quality since 2012.

He served Regal Beloit in 2010 as director of quality for the Regal mechanical group, which includes Durst. Before joining Regal, McCormick was manager of manufacturing engineering and quality assurance at PBC Linear, a Pacific Bearing company. McCormick also spent 10 years as manager of manufacturing engineering

at Haldex Hydraulics Corp. Earlier in his career, he worked for John S. Barnes Corp.

### **Zeilstra Gets Post At Kawasaki Engines**

The Engines and Power Products Division of Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. announced the hiring of **JJ Zeilstra** to the position of government relations manager, responsible for directing the division's government relations activities and ensuring that Kawasaki products meet all applicable requirements. Part of that responsibility will include close interaction with the Engine Products Engineering Group at Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. in Japan and Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A., which manages production facilities in Marysville, Mo. and Lincoln, Neb. He will also represent the division in ongoing technical committee activities at industry organizations, such as Outdoor Power Equipment Institute.

Prior to his most recent position at Kubota Engine America, he was employed by General Motors Powertrain and Powerix Technologies LLC.

### **Franks Named To EGSA's Green Committee**

**Wyatt Franks**, assistant product marketing manager for North American generator products at Doosan Portable Power, was appointed to secretary of the Green Committee for the Electrical Generating Systems Association (EGSA). The Green Committee's initiative is to promote the growing field of green technologies and educate EGSA members of new and existing opportunities. This includes green programs, regulations, policies and procedures that may be used to lower emissions, reduce carbon footprint and improve business profits. Franks joins EGSA members **Jim McDonald**, **Dave Phillips** and **Vaughn Beasley** on the committee.

EGSA is dedicated to on-site power generation. The association is comprised of more than 750 companies around the world that make, sell, distribute and use on-site power generation technology and equipment, including generators. EGSA also is an authority in the development and monitoring of performance standards for the on-site power industry.