

Diamond Power International, Inc.

Company History



Diamond Power's core business has been, and is today, power specialties. Simple boiler cleaners were the earliest products in 1903, and today's principle product line is still boiler cleaning systems. Much more elaborate and sophisticated now, they still serve the same purpose - keeping boilers operating at peak efficiency. Water level gauges and viewing systems also continue to be important product offerings.

The company's diagnostic equipment includes microprocessor technology which allows engineers and boiler operators to probe the intense heat, gas and fly ash inside the boiler in order to obtain an accurate assessment of the boiler's operations. Diamond Power's controls systems product line adapts state-of-the-art technology towards the development of computerized systems which enable operators to accurately monitor the efficiency of the sootblower during operations.

Diamond Power's major end market has historically been the electric utility industry, and that is still a vital market segment. Significant sales are also made to chemical and petrochemical plants, refuse burning plants, and to pulp and paper mills. For this latter market, Diamond Power produces the world's most rugged and reliable severe duty sootblower.

1903

In the same year the Wright Brothers first became airborne, a German immigrant named Raphael Herman establishes a company in Detroit for the manufacture of hand-operated boiler cleaning devices. This is the beginning of Diamond Power Specialty Company. Its "power specialty" products have evolved from those early scale removers for small steam generators to sophisticated cleaning systems and accessories for the world's largest boilers.

1922

The Babcock & Wilcox Company acquires controlling interest in the small, young company.

During the 1920's, Diamond Power's engineers develop a chrome-iron alloy element material and the first retractable sootblower to withstand ever-increasing boiler temperatures.

1930

The company tackles another area critical to boiler operations, that of water level indication. Diamond Power begins producing reliable, direct-reading water level gauges which have since evolved into state-of-the-art systems employing fiber optic viewing.

Also in the 1930's, the company develops the Automatic Air Puff sootblower which utilized puffs of compressed air (rather than steam) for cleaning boiler tubes. This development proved particularly valuable to the U. S. Navy during World War

II; not only did it conserve the fresh water used for ship board boilers, but it emitted considerably less stack discharge during sootblowing operations aboard ship, helping to conceal the ship's location.

1940

Diamond Power introduces a positive action poppet valve which is still an important feature of its sootblower product line. Also in the 1940's, a closed circuit television system is developed by the company for remote reading of a boiler water level gauge. It is believed that the Diamond Power CTV system installed in an electric utility generating station in 1945 was among the very first adaptations of television for industrial use in the U.S. Diamond Power sells its CCTV business in 1973 to Arvin Systems, Inc.

1950

Operations are consolidated in early 1950 when Diamond Power moves into the new headquarters complex in Lancaster, Ohio. Throughout the decade, Diamond Power employees continue to design and build bigger and better sootblowers to clean ever larger fossil fuel-fired boilers.

By 1959, Diamond Power's development of power specialties for nuclear reactors had begun, the first such product being control rod drives for pool-type research reactors.

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1960

By the early 1960's, Diamond Power is building complete control rod drive systems, stud tensioners, and liquid level indicating equipment for the nuclear industry's power reactors. These products are consolidated with other Babcock & Wilcox nuclear operations at Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1981.

The purchase in 1961 of a small sootblower company, Diamond Blower Ltd. of Southampton, England, begins a period of international diversification which is still active today. Diamond Blower Ltd. has since become Diamond Power Speciality Ltd., jointly owned with Babcock Energy Ltd. The firm has grown considerably and has relocated to Dumbarton, Scotland. In 1965, Diamond Superior AB of Stockholm, Sweden, is acquired as a supplier of sootblowers to Scandinavian and eastern European markets.

1972

Diamond Power Specialty Company becomes a wholly-owned B&W affiliate. In 1978, B&W is acquired by McDermott Incorporated, the engineering, fabrication, and construction services company known for its pioneering efforts in offshore oil and gas platform and pipeline construction. The company which was formed is now known as McDermott International, Inc.

1977

Diamond Power's international diversification moves ahead with the acquisition of the company's Canadian sales agency and the subsequent building of a plant and office facility in Burlington, Ontario. Diamond Canapower produces and markets Diamond Power products in Canada and in Canadian export markets, manufactures pipe hangers, and serves as a sales agency for a number of other principals.

In the 1960's and 1970's, Diamond Power becomes the first to offer integrated circuitry in boiler cleaning control systems, and the company pioneered waterlancing technology as a means of cleaning high slagging, coal-fired boilers. Long retractable sootblowers are also lengthened to accommodate increased boiler sizes, and Diamond Power becomes the exclusive supplier of 56-foot travel units for 1300 megawatt units.

1985

Diamond Power Australia (Pty.) Ltd. is formed, followed in 1986 by Diamond Superior OY of Finland. Diamond Power Korea and Diamond Power Hubei Co. Ltd. (China) are 1987 additions to the company's international operations.

1995

Diamond Power Specialty Company acquires the assets of Joy Environmental Technologies, Inc., anticipating synergies between DPSC's sootblower product line and JOY auxiliary boiler equipment businesses (Allen-Sherman-Hoff ash-handling systems and Western Precipitation air pollution control). In establishing the new company product offerings, JET assets are divided and Allen-Sherman-Hoff is named as a division of DPSC for the provision of

traditional A-S-H systems, equipment and parts – reinstating the Allen-Sherman-Hoff name and logo. Initially, OEM Parts and Service for all Western Precipitation air pollution control equipment, including NIRO FGD systems, was the responsibility of A-S-H Aftermarket. The design and supply of Western Precipitation air pollution control equipment was joined with the Babcock and Wilcox Environmental Group in Barberton, Ohio; which today has assumed responsibility for the entire Western Precipitation product line.

1997

In Diamond Power's continuing effort to improve its customer support and the focus of its business units, Diamond Power International Inc. (DPII) is formed. This restructuring further enhances the organization's overall product and service offerings, and provides improved support to customers.

2002

DPII acquires certain assets of the Beaumont Birch Co., now a part the company's ash handling division. Beaumont Birch continues to design and supply custom-built bulk handling conveyor systems for waste disposal and material handling of coal, lignite, wood and trash.

Diamond Superior AB, Sollentuna, Sweden, a subsidiary of DPII, announces 100 percent acquisition of LT-Produkter Skutskar AB, an automatic port rodder cleaning company in Skutskar, Sweden. The acquisition reinforces Diamond Power's leadership position in the supply of boiler cleaning and diagnostic products for the pulp & paper recovery market.

Later that year, Diamond Power acquires Applied Synergistics Inc (ASI). ASI systems have been installed to optimize control of boiler cleaning equipment in over 120 boilers since 1995, including most water cannon installations. ASI is the recognized technological leader in "intelligent systems"; the combination with Diamond Power results in unmatched knowledge and experience in performance improvement through boiler cleaning.

2005

Diamond Power International, Inc. (DPII) announces that it has acquired total ownership of the Diamond Power Hubei Machine Company Ltd. (DPH), located in Jingshan Hubei, China. Having received the Chinese government's approval of the transaction, DPH is registered as a Wholly Foreign Owned Enterprise in China.

Allen-Sherman-Hoff (A-S-H), a division of Diamond Power International, Inc., enters into a licensing agreement with Magaldi Power S.p.A of Salerno Italy for the design and supply of the Magaldi dry-bottom ash extraction system (the MAC™ System) in the United States. The MAC™ System is an environmentally friendly method of conveying bottom ash that does not require the use of water.

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