

FROM PIPE PROCESSOR TO POWERHOUSE K&B MACHINE

Kenneth Wood Sr. founded K&B Machine in 1974 in Houma, La., with little more than his own determination.

Nearly four decades later, K&B has grown into a 338-employee, oilfield-products powerhouse with locations in three states, including 231 employees at its Houma headquarters.

But the pipe-processing firm remains close to the core principles that drove K&B from the beginning. K&B is still family-owned, still customer focused and still dedicated to constantly building its share of the drilling-products market. K&B's long-term vision "is to become the recognized industry leader in oilfield manufacturing of oil and gas drilling and well-completion products," said President Kenneth Wood Jr.

K&B has moved at full steam for years. Since 1999, it has grown more than 10 percent per year and projects continued growth of at least that rate for the next five years.

K&B's threading division holds API and ISO certifications and numerous premium threading licenses. Using state-of-the-art CNC equipment, K&B is licensed to machine all forms of threads, including some of the most obscure.

Kenneth Wood Jr. credits the dedication of K&B's employees and a focus on safety, quality and customer satisfaction as central factors in the company's success.

The diversity of its services is likewise a critical component of its record of steady growth. While it is primarily a full-length, pipe-threading company for domestic and international oil-drilling firms, especially deep-water operators, additional divisions in welding and fabrication, manufacturing, tubular accessories and customer inventory control allow K&B to respond nimbly to changing customer demands and market conditions. K&B's recognition of industry trends also contributes to the company's continued growth.

Constant examination of its processes, and innovative efforts to improve them, is another tenet. K&B will again enhance the way it operates with a planned expansion and consolidation at a new site in Houma. By mid-2013, the company will complete a consolidation and expansion project that will result in dramatic additional efficiency in its processes.

At its current site, operations are spread over 11 buildings and 18 acres. The expansion project will shift operations to a single building at a new 35-acre site. Piping and other products that now travel an average of two miles at the existing site will typically move about one-quarter of that once the new site is up and running.

"The reduction in transportation costs at the new site will translate into improved efficiency in the range of 40 percent," said Office Manager Scott Hebert.

The company will use the state's Modernization Tax Credit for the expansion project. The incentive provides a one-time, 5 percent state tax credit on capital investments of at least \$5 million to upgrade or modernize existing in-state facilities.

"The value of the incentive cannot be overstated for a project like K&B's expansion," said Wood. "The state's modernization program appears to be tailor-made for what we are looking to accomplish in construction of our new facility." **EQ**



SINCE 1999, K&B HAS GROWN MORE THAN 10 PERCENT PER YEAR AND PROJECTS CONTINUED GROWTH OF AT LEAST THAT RATE FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.



PHOTO: K&B Machine's employees work to improve oil and gas drilling and well-completion products.



**338 TOTAL K&B MACHINE
EMPLOYEES IN THREE STATES**

**231 LOUISIANA
EMPLOYEES**

**107 OUT OF STATE
EMPLOYEES**