

ERIE PRESS SYSTEMS

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COMPANY PROFILE

125-Year-Old Manufacturer Forges Ahead Under New Ownership

For 125 years, ERIE Press has been a globally recognized industry leader here in the north-west Pennsylvania manufacturing community. But today, as a result of its acquisition by Cleveland-based Park Ohio Corporation and its new affiliation with their well-known Ajax-CECO brands, the company is now the largest forging and forming equipment supplier based in North America.

"We are a one-stop, full-service domestic resource for hydraulic and mechanical presses as well as sheet and extrusion stretch forming machines and other specialized machines," explains Doug Currie, president of ERIE Press Systems in Erie, Pennsylvania. "We have not only strengthened our position within our traditional markets but continue to provide innovative, productive and reliable precision forging and forming machines for the aerospace, auto/truck, defense, off-road, primary metals and various other industries."

Strategic Move

Park Ohio's acquisition of ERIE Press Systems in June 2019 added hydraulic press and stretch forming equipment to its already impressive selection of mechanical presses and hammers for forging offered under the Ajax-CECO brand. "By acquiring ERIE Press Systems, we expanded our engineering, manufacturing and service capabilities, control costs more effectively, and benefit from economies of scale when working with our core suppliers" notes Ken Copeland, president of Ajax-CECO. "Our goal was to become a one-stop provider of new, rebuilt, and remanufactured equipment for a variety of traditional and advanced forging applications, along with providing full service and timely support."

According to Copeland, ERIE Press Systems' extensive hydraulic and mechanical press capabilities perfectly complement the equipment offered by Ajax-CECO.

125 Years and Counting

ERIE Press Systems has a long history, dating back to 1895 when the company originally began as Erie Foundry Company to produce gray iron castings for Erie's local stove, boiler and steam engine manufacturing industries. Along the way, ERIE Press Systems made a variety of special machinery before manufacturing

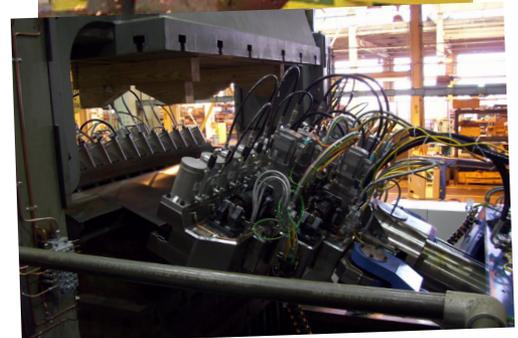
hydraulic presses in the mid-1920s. By the early 1900s, the company began specializing in steam powered forging hammers before eventually closing the foundry to make room for its expanding machining and assembly operations in 1940.

After beginning to produce hydraulic presses, ERIE Press Systems added mechanical forging presses to the product line. In 2001, the company brought stretch forming machines and hot presses into the product line in order to expand capabilities and broaden turnkey solutions for its customers.

Today, the company offers a line of standard mechanical forge presses to 12,000 tons as well as hydraulic presses to 15,000 tons for a variety of applications including forging (closed die, open die and ring preforming), special metal forming, carbon extrusion, composite and hot presses, and stretch forming machines, as well as support for a legacy line of forging hammers.

"We manufacture, service and repair hydraulic and mechanical presses for companies around the globe from Asia to Europe, and across North and South America," says Currie, who along with his management team oversees ERIE Press Systems as a standalone entity. "We have built on 125 years of experience to deliver superior products and superior service. Implementation of team-based project management, engineering operations, assembly and continuous improvement programs aim at ensuring end-user satisfaction. For hydraulic and mechanical press solutions, you won't find a better partner than ERIE Press Systems."

As much as the company has evolved over the years, its values have remained constant. "Our business relies on a highly skilled, motivated and dedicated workforce who are the backbone of our longevity and success. Nearly all presses and machines are custom engineered and built; we have great pride in building the highest quality presses that exceed customer requirements," adds Currie. "At ERIE Press Systems, focus on



teamwork and continuous improvement have been keys to achieving our mission of building customer success one machine at a time." ■