

Therma-Tron-X Inc./HTF LLC



IHEA's newest member is quite a combination – of companies, that is.

Therma-Tron-X (TTX) was established in 1969 as an industrial oven manufacturer. The company built ovens for practically any operation, spanning several industries including food, finishing, metal treatment and packaging. Its product line expanded quickly, and TTX became a turnkey industrial finishing systems supplier by the early 1980s. The Sturgeon Bay, Wis.-based company's products included powder booths, pretreatment systems, material-handling systems, ovens and controls. By the late 1980s, TTX added water- and wastewater-treatment systems to its product line. Today, TTX serves as a custom finishing system supplier for industrial clients throughout North America.

HTF LLC, a recent acquisition of TTX, has been building heat-treat furnaces since 1998 in Sturgeon Bay, nearly next door to TTX. Brad Andreae (owner of TTX) and Dave Smith (former owner of HTF) often collaborated on projects and had a solid business relationship for nearly 25 years, making it a no-brainer to combine forces.

With approximately 260 employees, TTX/HTF serves the aerospace, agriculture, automotive and construction industries. The companies do not manufacture so-called cookie-cutter equipment. The business is based on innovatively engineered equipment that is conceived from the customer's needs. Because of this, TTX and HTF often test their products and processes in-house. In addition, all furnaces and ovens are tested, installed and commissioned by TTX teams. The company trains

its customers on their equipment.

The industrial furnaces and ovens the company manufactures have a long list of capabilities and can be built to suit almost any application. HTF furnaces include atmosphere, batch, bell, box, car bottom, continuous, drop bottom, pit, roller hearth and tip-up. Their uses include annealing, carburizing, forging, neutral hardening, nitriding, normalizing, stress relief and tempering. TTX ovens, meanwhile, include batch, conveyor, convection, curing, dry-off and infrared. They can be used for aging, baking, curing, drawing and preheating.

HTF furnaces are designed meet the metallurgical process requirements for a particular product. Energy efficiency, uniformity and robust design are signature technologies. TTX is experienced at designing units that fit spatial needs and utility requirements. Its ovens can be incorporated into finishing systems or configured as stand-alone units. TTX has developed several proprietary technologies that are known throughout the industry, including the SST® (SlideRail Square Transfer) and the Econ-E Coat®.

TTX/HTF does more than manufacture equipment. The company has a full service and spare parts department that responds quickly to customers' needs. Technicians are available in person, over the phone or via internet at all hours so that repairs and upgrades can be done when customers are not in full production mode. TTX/HTF also offers VPN connection to all equipment, so troubleshooting can be done with ease.

