

Argus Machine Co. Ltd.

Argus celebrates over 40 years in the ACR family



Alberta owned and operated, Argus' unwavering dedication to quality and reliability has made the company a well-known name throughout the oil and gas industry. Focus on supplying customers with oilfield products and services that meet their individual specifications is why Argus is now celebrating nearly half a century of success.

Growing Up in Alberta

It was almost 50 years ago when an English drilling equipment company named Edeco decided to leave Edmonton due to a slow local oil industry. "In 1958, they sold the machine shop business and equipment to myself, my current partner Albert Kranenburg (Argus' Secretary-Treasurer), and the six remaining employees of Edeco," remarks Tommy Hallett, President of Argus. "Because Albert and I were the youngest in the group, we consequently ended up with the company,"

The newly formed company, Argus Machine Co. Ltd., rented the land with a 4,000-square-foot quonset from Edeco in south Edmonton for only 12.5 cents per square foot.

They started out manufacturing downhole equipment, threading and repairing tubular goods, tubing, casing, and rotary drill stem connections. After five years, the company purchased land at its current address (5820-97th Street) and, with the assistance of a loan from the Industrial Development Bank,

constructed a 7,000-square-foot machine shop. Since that time the company has continued to grow and today it includes a 50,000-square-foot machine shop and a 20,000-square-foot assembly and testing facility in Edmonton, as well as a state of the art 54,000-square-foot threading facility in Nisku.

Premium Threading and Custom Machining

The backbone of Argus' success has been its focus on servicing local operators and service companies by offering a wide variety of threading and machining services. From threading a change over sub for the North Sea, to threading 150,000 meters of production casing for a SAGD project in Western Canada, Argus can react and get the job done.

With the ability to thread tubing and casing to a maximum 20" diameter, Argus has the largest threading capability in Canada, and consistently provides machining services on product that is destined for local use and for other regions of the world.

Setting the Standard

When you work in a field that leaves little room for error, you ensure that every part your company manufactures, no matter how big or small, meets your customer's exact specifications. If your company is Argus, quality and precision is everything. When you are a leader in your field, you set the standard.

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Maintaining standards of quality is as important as meeting them. That is why Argus holds five API licenses, several premium threading licenses and is ISO 9000:2001 Certified. Additionally, the company manufactures products conforming to CSA, ABSA and NACE.

Leading the Pack in Quality Products

Every Argus proprietary product is well known and established throughout the world. From cementing equipment used by all major cementing operators, to pressure switches and pigging valves used by the majority of energy companies. The Argus Pigging Valve was designed to meet a need that was identified over 10 years ago when the company saw an industry focus towards corrosion mitigation and pipeline maintenance.

Whereas traditional pigging operations more commonly included the use of spherical pigs, Argus designed a valve that accepted a bullet style scraper pig that not only swept fluids but also scraped debris from the pipe wall. By designing a valve that accepts a more aggressive pig, Argus has assisted operators in developing a pipeline maintenance program that meets their needs.

In addition to the increasing industry focus on pipeline maintenance, pigging valves assist operators in their desire to reduce the release of hydrocarbons to the atmosphere. Pigging valves can reduce the amount of pipeline media released to the atmosphere by as much as 92 per cent per pigging operation when compared to the use of conventional pigging barrels. They also remove the need to purge barrels of dangerous H₂S, which can be costly, time consuming and necessitate additional safety precautions.

Finally, to address the need for operators to launch pigs from a remote location, Argus designed a

multi-pig launcher. Rather than flying into a location once a week with a helicopter, the launcher can be loaded with seven pigs and automated, thereby reducing the need for an operator to visit the site for pigging to once every seven weeks. These systems drastically reduce the operating costs associated with maintaining remote locations.

People Make it Work

"This company is 47 years old and we have many people who have been with us for over 20 years," states Tommy proudly. And what keeps employees in one place for so long – especially in an age when devotion to one company is becoming a rare commodity? Perhaps it is the trust and respect that Tommy and Albert have for their staff.

Tommy's attitude pays off. Such employee longevity means that Argus can draw on years of experience. This experience, combined with a dedication to excellence, and a willingness and ability to keep up with current technologies, is an important factor in propelling Argus forward, continually developing and expanding into new horizons. In an effort to continue offering the same level of quality and service that their customers have grown accustomed to, Argus has promoted most key personnel from within.

Recognizing a need to invest in their future growth, Argus has also established a \$500,000 endowment fund at NAIT and annually presents bursaries to 30 students in six different faculties.

As Argus celebrates 47 years of success – no small feat in today's economy – one thing is certain: their commitment to service and craftsmanship, their dedication to precision and accuracy, and their unshakeable loyalty to their customers are the forces that separate Argus from their competitors. ■