At New Levels

A&A INDUSTRIAL PIPING HAS GROWN TO WORK FOR THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS. BY ALAN DORICH

There are not many firms that get the opportunity to qualify to work on prominent projects like the New World Trade Center. But, by having a strong project portfolio and the required bonding capacity, A&A Industrial Piping Inc. has qualified, according to General Manager William Albanese.

The Fairfield, N.J.-based mechanical contractor specializes in HVAC installations and process and utility piping services. A longtime veteran of the industry, Albanese co-founded A&A Industrial 21 years ago.

Previously, Albanese started in the field as a union tradesman, then moved into an office position as an estimator and worked to become the vice president of that company before deciding to start A&A Industrial Piping Inc. in 1990.

Today, Albanese manages A&A Industrial Piping Inc. with President Rosemary Ravella and Executive Vice President Rick Tomalco.

The company employs a staff of 60 and serves a diverse customer base in both the private and public sectors.

Ravella is extremely proud of some of the projects that have been completed by A&A in New Jersey, such as the 300,000-square-foot Preakness Hospital Project; the New Meadowlands (MetLife) Stadium; the work performed for the Hudson Bergen Light Rail system, including the rail maintenance facility and the ventilation and plumbing systems in the Weehawken Tunnel; and the Rahway Valley Sewage Authority Waste water treatment plant improvements.

A&A has completed many prominent projects for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey at locations such as the Lincoln Tunnel, Newark Airport and George Washington Bridge. Ravella also acknowledges the benefits she and the company received through involvement in the Port Authority’s Mentor Protégé program.

Investing in A&A

According to Albanese, A&A Industrial has stayed successful by maintaining a hands-on approach. “As we have made profits, we’ve reinvested back into the company,” he says.

By reinvesting, A&A Industrial purchased its two-acre location in Fairfield, which serves as...
Improving Life in NY and NJ

Based in New York City, the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey builds, manages and maintains the infrastructure that is essential to the trade and transportation network of the region. “These facilities include America’s busiest airport system, marine terminals and ports, the PATH rail transit system, six tunnels and bridges between New York and New Jersey, the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Manhattan, and the World Trade Center,” it states.

Established in 1921, the Port Authority says it has worked to improve the quality of life for the people who live and work in New York and New Jersey. The region, it notes, supports 8.6 million jobs with an estimated gross regional product of more than $929 billion.

Like A&A Industrial, the Port Authority has a commitment to green initiatives. “There are a number of innovative initiatives, such as the LED Lighting initiative at the George Washington Bridge, and projects in progress with new ideas and improvements being added all the time,” it states.

“Some initiatives impact facilities across the Port Authority, like our programs that address climate change, air quality, coastal ecosystems and energy,” it states. “Others are focused on our facilities, like airports, the PATH, bridges and tunnels, ports and real estate.”

its main headquarters and features a piping fabrication shop. Additionally, “We always stay up to date on any developing technologies in the industry and try and implement into our business model,” Albanese says.

This includes the use of 3-D modeling for BIM applications. “The first time we used it exclusively was at the New Meadowlands [MetLife Stadium],” Albanese says. “I don’t think you can successfully grow in this industry if you are not proactive and utilize the new technologies available.”

Branching Out

“The diversity in A&A Industrial’s customer base has been critical to surviving the economic recession,” Tomaiko says. “As we were completing several major projects in 2008, we recognized that there was going to be a drop off in the markets we were serving.”

That motivated the company to look for work in other markets, including education. A&A Industrial has completed 10 school projects, according to Tomaiko. “We also started looking at other markets we could get into that were strong and available,” he adds.

With this focus, the company has earned such projects as the new World Trade Center Transportation Hub, which is currently under construction in New York City. When finished, it will cover 800,000 square feet and be the third-largest transportation hub in the city, the Port Authority says.

Developer Silverstein Properties Inc. notes that the Hub will accommodate 250,000 pedestrians daily and feature a “soaring” design. “The Transportation Hub’s innovative design features retractable, 150-foot-high, glass-and-steel wings that will allow natural light to pass through to the rail platforms 50 feet below street level,” it describes.

Lakeland Bank

Lakeland Bank congratulates Rosemary Ravelia, Richard Tomaiko, and Bill Albanese of A&A Industrial Piping. As a community bank, it’s a pleasure to witness our customer’s success. Lakeland Bank values its longtime association with A&A Industrial Piping and is proud to have contributed to the company’s growth.
The Hub also will include a multistory transit hall similar to Grand Central Terminal with lower and upper concourses, and a public waiting area. Additionally, the hub will feature approximately 200,000 square feet of retail facilities in the transit hub.

The Port Authority is building the hub in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Transportation Administration. The PTA has committed approximately $1.92 billion toward the more than $3.2 billion project, with the Port Authority investing the difference,” Silverstein states.

“The Hub’s design will seamlessly fuse state-of-the-art transportation and retail facilities in a design destined to become iconic,” the Port Authority states. The structure designed by acclaimed architect Santiago Calatrava will be supported by 900 tons of steel.

Albanese notes that A&A Industrial has a $54 million contract to provide the HVAC systems for the project, which will be located at the World Trade Center site. “It is probably going to be one of the signature buildings in the United States when it is done,” he states.

A&A Industrial also is at work on a ventila-

Critical Focus

A&A Industrial Piping is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Based in Washington, D.C., the organization focuses on sustainability for the nation through cost-efficient and energy saving buildings.

USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building certification program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities, according to the council.

Today, A&A Industrial has many employees who have become LEED accredited professionals, Bill Albanese says. He continues that it is quite critical for a company such as A&A Industrial to have a handle on green technologies.

“It is imperative,” he says, noting that the company has LEED requirements that must be met on its Transportation Hub project at the World Trade Center. “We have to maintain a complete sustainability program incorporating LEED elements going on.”
Safe Transport

Based in Newark, N.J., NJ TRANSIT says it is its home state’s public transportation corporation. “It’s mission is to provide safe, reliable, convenient and cost-effective transit service with a skilled team of employees, dedicated to our customers’ needs and committed to excellence,” it states.

“Covering a service area of 5,325 square miles, NJ TRANSIT is the nation’s third largest provider of bus, rail and light rail transit, linking major points in New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia,” it states, noting that it operates a fleet of 2,027 buses, 711 trains and 45 light-rail vehicles.

The organization also administers a transit program for people with disabilities, senior citizens or individuals living in rural areas who do not have means of transportation. “In addition, the agency provides support and equipment to privately owned contract bus carriers,” it states.

A&A Industrial says it embraces new technologies as they emerge.

All in the Family

After all these years, Albanese says he still remains engaged in the HVAC industry and currently serves as the chairman of the MCAA National Legislative Committee. A&A Industrial also is a family business.

His son, Bill Jr., is an employee of the company and serves as the project executive for the World Trade Center construction. Additionally, his partner’s son, Rick Tomak Jr., is working in project support roles including safety, quality control and scheduling. “That is basically what keeps me in it,” Albanese declares.

Ravella predicts that A&A Industrial will keep growing. This growth is supported by its strong financial position and its great banking partner, Lakeland Bank, along with its insurance and Sureties partners.

With its dedicated office and field staff and proactively employing new technologies within its business, A&A will continue to expand its range by tackling the more technically complex and logistically challenging projects, Albanese says.

Congratulations A&A Industrial Piping Inc. on your continued success!

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