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2021 Minnesota Manufacturing Awards

2021 Minnesota Manufacturing Awards: Ajax Metal Forming Solutions places premium on recruiting, training programs

Manufacturer of the Year – Medium

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Since 1945, Ajax Metal Forming Solutions has been evolving and expanding its work in the Twin Cities and, more recently, to Raleigh, N.C.

With more than 75 years of business under its belt, President Kent Djubek said hiring good employees has been one of the keys to the company’s longevity. “Ajax has a rich history of workforce development. We seek out people who aspire to a successful manufacturing career instead of just a job.”

Cultivating quality employees is critical to the company.



AJAX METAL FORMING SOLUTIONS
Kent Djubek is president of Ajax Metal Forming Solutions.

“We’ve done an outstanding job of identifying talented, ambitious people and helping them to learn and grow professionally,” Djubek said.

To that end, Ajax helped found the M-Powered program at Hennepin Technical College to provide fast-track training for manufacturing jobs. The company actively recruits, trains and promotes U.S. military veterans with funded training through internships, apprenticeships and scholarships. And for those already in its employ, Ajax provides program tuition for employees to expand their skill set by attending manufacturing classes while working.

Ajax has further been recognized for its dedication to employee health and safety by MNSHARP, the Minnesota safety and health achievement recognition program, and as a recipient of the Governor’s Safety Award for Meritorious Achievement.

To stay relevant and profitable in its field, Ajax listens to the needs of the market and responds accordingly. “Ajax has grown profitably through careful selection of customer opportunities and by investing in the right machinery and facilities at the right time,” Djubek said. “For instance, supply chain disruption is a leading concern among our customers. We’ve invested heavily in new facilities, people and machinery that will resolve many supply chain issues now and in the future.”

The company is also a steward of the environment.

“Ajax proudly embraces green objectives and strives to be a great asset to Minnesota both environmentally and economically,” Djubek said. “We reduce our carbon footprint by recycling all of our metals, energy-saving programs, and water conservation.”

Ajax is a member of Minnesota Waste Wise and has an active green manufacturing program.

“Being a good steward of our resources is good for Ajax and our colleagues and neighbors in the future,” Djubek said. “Not only is it the right thing to do, but it also makes 'cents.' ”

Founded by Swedish immigrant, inventor and skilled machinist Erick Julius Ajax, the metal stamping and fabrication company has

seen three generations of the Ajax family at its helm. Heartland Equity Partners acquired majority ownership in 2017, but the founder's grandsons, Erick and Tom Ajax, continue as equity owners and serve on the board of directors.

Ajax Metal Forming Solutions

President: Kent Djubek

Headquarters: Fridley

Employees: 85

Year founded: 1945

Business: Metal stamping and fabrication

Web: ajaxmfs.com