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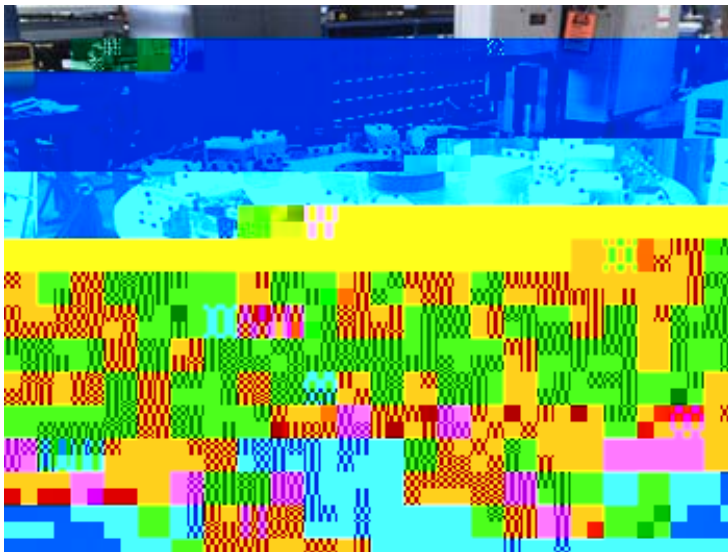


But AP Alternatives does more than just provide solar racking hardware. Service starts before breaking ground with site layouts, max density studies and on-site anchor testing for the solar array location to determine soil strength and confirm the size of helical anchors needed. AP Alternatives deploys a mobile assembly line to the project location to install the full package of anchors, pre-panelized racking and structural bracing.

Making do without sacrificing quality

The post-recession U.S. manufacturing resurgence slowly gained momentum but even by 2013, capital for new equipment simply wasn't available. Tooling, welding and automation equipment was recycled and refurbished to adapt to the production of a much wider array of both high and low volume parts for a diverse mix of automotive parts suppliers and the growing solar business.

Despite making do with repurposed equipment, quality never slipped. In 2015, Alex Products received its 19th consecutive Supplier Quality Award from Johnson Controls for best in class Quality, Cost and Delivery. And in 2011, the company received the Platinum Supplier Award and Excellence in Execution from Johnson Controls.



Alex Products, through its Technical Center and its sister stamping facility, A-Stamp, has the capacity to design, build, and maintain custom equipment that can be efficiently adapted for new products.

machinists, industrial electricians, maintenance technicians, solar installation crews, and welding, metal forming and coating production teams.

It takes a community

It takes more than a village to support a manufacturing resurgence on the scale and timeline of Alex Products' success. With six facilities located in Ridgeville Corners, Bryan and Paulding, Ohio, Alex Products is deeply involved in activities that support strong local and regional economic development.

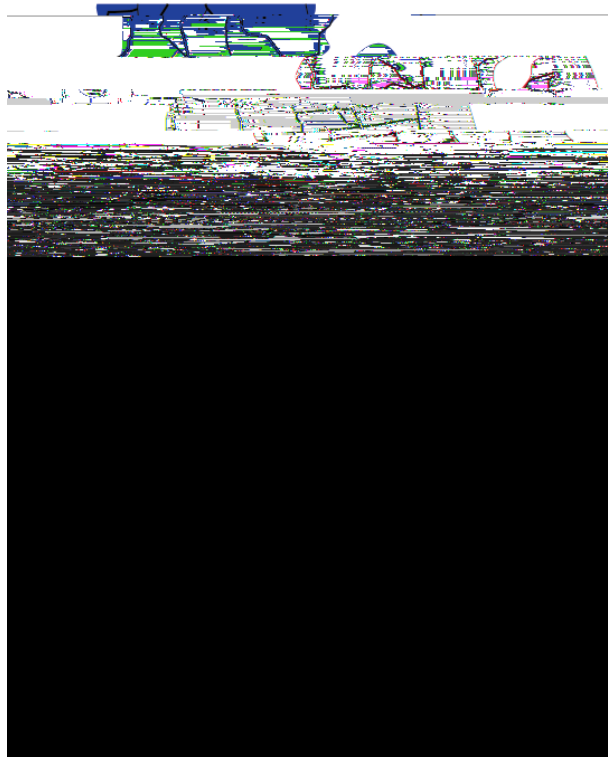
Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative (PPEC) is also a partner in the local growth efforts and works to connect businesses with USDA grants, available sites and buildings, potential collaborators and workforce development officials.

Flexible manufacturing methodology key to survival

A flexible manufacturing approach in which machines can be efficiently changed over to produce new products or multiple machines can be used to perform the same operation on a part, allows Alex Products to rapidly scale and cost effectively produce various sizes of product runs.

With 2015 contracts nearing pre-recession levels, Alex Products is investing in new equipment to deliver even more competitive pricing while enhancing the flexibility to more quickly produce an even wider variety of products.

Alex Products' workforce now exceeds 700 employees including engineers, skilled



George Carter, CEO/General Manager of Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative, shared, “As a member-owned utility, PPEC is deeply invested in the success of our residential and corporate neighbors. By providing reliable, affordable electricity with the capacity for rapid growth, we are ready to help companies like Alex Products achieve their goals.”

The Great Recession decimated many Midwest manufacturers. The companies, such as Alex Products, that survived demonstrate the innovation, flexibility, product quality and collaborative approach that it takes to thrive in the post-recession economy.

Alex Products' Ohio locations.

Buckeye Power and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives can help with:

- Comprehensive site and building portfolios
- Preliminary site studies
- Site search tours
- Assistance in identifying financial incentives
- Electric rate analyses
- Community profiles
- State and local government contacts
- Contractor introductions



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