

Made in the Mid-Willamette Valley: Aggregate Machinery, Inc. and Valley Equipment Company, Inc.

July 22, 2010

Business description: In 1990, Marubeni Corporation of Japan, one of the world's largest companies, bought controlling interest in Thunderbird Manufacturing for the purpose of incorporating Kobelco Rock crushers into portable and stationary rock crushing and recycling plants. The two-bay 28,000 square-foot shop at 3575 Blossom Drive in Salem employs 40 people during peak periods. Subsequently, the Asian flu hit Japan in the mid 1990's, and Marubeni wanted to close the Company.

Thanks to the fast action of the former owners, an agreement was made to sell the assets of the business to a new entity "Aggregate Machinery, Inc". The company was so well known as Thunderbird throughout the quarry and recycling industry that company president Roger Jensen decided to Register the trade mark "THUNDERBIRD II".

Business history: In 1994, the company began designing, selling and producing its own line of first quality equipment for the aggregate and construction recycling markets. In 2001, it built another 10,000 square foot shop on the same Blossom Drive property for his heavy equipment dealership "Valley Equipment Company, Inc". This move attracted TEREX, one of the largest Heavy Equipment Companies in the world. Terex decided that the Valley and AMI combination were better fit for Terex Minerals Processing than their current representative. Roger Jensen said that his late father-in-law Ed Tompkins developed and invented many of the Terex Minerals Processing machines that we now sell, it was always our dream to be able to offer these fine USA-made machines in our plants "I wish he could have been alive to see what happened and how we have grown."

Employees: 40 to 50

Website: www.thunderbird2.com

Business specialties: Custom metal fabrication, we design and build aggregate machinery, recycling plants, wood material-handling equipment and mining equipment.



Special to the Statesman Journal Aggregate Machinery, Inc. designs and builds aggregate machinery, recycling plants, wood material handling equipment and mining equipment.

SEDCOR, the lead economic development agency for Marion and Polk counties, is pleased to offer you a glimpse of the multitude of products and services being manufactured and provided by local area companies. SEDCOR's membership is composed of more than 500 business and community leaders who support our mission to enhance and diversify the economy of the Mid-Willamette Valley.

What is the biggest advantage of doing business in the Willamette Valley: We have access to great people and we are close to ports. Our biggest project for 2010 is the design and equipment for a new 1,200-ton per hour quarry plant in Honolulu for Grace Pacific Corporation, the biggest roadbuilder in the state of Hawaii. This will be a great project and we get to paint it a red dirt color just in case a helicopter fly's over the pit it will not stand out.

What trends do you see in your industry: Our customers are consolidating into groups giant world wide companies.

Toughest business decision: To layoff people in a tough business climate, we are in a cyclical industry that has high highs and low lows.

What trends do you see happening: Our customers use huge amounts of water to wash materials for concrete sand and other aggregates, we are now heavily involved in building systems to recycle that water. We have even tested some of our machines in sewage treatment plants and cleaned up the water with the Patented high pressure filtering systems that we put together.

For additional information, contact SEDCOR at (503) 584-7303 or e-mail sappleby@sedcor.com