

Made in the Mid-Willamette Valley: Modern Building Systems

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Company name: Modern Building Systems

Address: 9493 Porter Rd. SE Aumsville, OR 97325

Phone: (503) 749-4949

Website: www.modernbuildingsystems.com

Business description: As the environmentally smart choice, for all of your building needs, we lease and sell temporary job-site trailers, mobile sales offices, construction-site offices, portable classrooms, complete turn-key schools, multi-story office buildings, medical clinics, daycare facilities, computer and other kinds of laboratories, branch bank buildings, restroom/shower buildings. We have our own fleet of delivery trucks, and maintain our own installation crews, equipment and service departments, so we're 100 percent responsible for our work.

Employees: 100 - 120

Business specialties: Our company is a design-and-build manufacturer, constructing everything from offices, medical building and classrooms - essentially anything but residential. We've worked for government agencies across the country, built a blast-proof flight simulator for Boeing and constructed a four-story building at the Red Dog Mine near the Arctic Circle.

Business history: Since December 6, 1971, our team has been passionate about what we build and how we put it all together. Our strength is our ability to provide our customers with quality, cost-effective solutions that satisfies their building needs; while maintaining profitability and the highest integrity. We set the standard for quality, employee satisfaction, and innovation in our industry. We have won many awards for design and construction of our buildings, as well as in recycling and sustainability.

We're the oldest commercial modular building company on the West Coast. Modern is 120 team members strong — and we're growing. We're a family owned and operated business, started by Don Rasmussen and carried on by his sons, Jim and Ken Rasmussen.

What is biggest advantage of doing business in the Mid-Willamette Valley: The ability to attract and retain such great employees. Many of the people at Modern have been with the company for a long time. Also, Modern does business up and down the West Coast and the Mid-Willamette Valley is a central location.



Special to the Statesman Journal
Modern Building Systems is the oldest commercial modular building company on the West Coast.

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.

Essential business philosophy: We pride ourselves on being the number one choice for top-quality, environmentally friendly buildings at very competitive prices, with no dealer-reseller mark-ups. Our goal is your satisfaction — and making sure your needs have been met and exceeded.

Best way to stay competitive: Be aggressive on continual-process-improvements and build enhanced relationships with supplier partners.

What is most challenging in work: Currently, like with many businesses, it is the slow economy. However, because we do businesses in multiple states, there is the ongoing challenge of varying building codes to manage, as well as the ever changing raw material prices.

Best business decision: Modern made a decision in 1996 to get into the leasing business and this was a great diversification of the business strategy. Also, over time, Modern has become very vertically integrated in their processes allowing them greater quality control and the ability to enhance the efficiency of their manufacturing while still maintaining the ability to be a custom manufacturer.

Toughest business decision: These are always the decisions that involve "human capital." Modern is emotionally invested in their employees and runs the business like a family. Any change that has a negative impact on them is a tough decision to make.

Company affiliations: Long-standing member of the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce, member of the Oregon Home Builders Association, SEDCOR, Modular Building Institute and Cascade Employers Association.

Major clients: Public and private companies and governmental organizations.

For additional information contact SEDCOR at 503-584-7303 or email sappleby@sedcor.com.