UNEX: 50-Years-Old, Still Growing and Moving to Lakewood to Keep Growing

Unex Manufacturing Inc. is 50 years old and moving into Lakewood so it can double its square footage and grow. “We simply have outgrown our present building; and after evaluating many options, our board approved the move to Lakewood as our best business decision,” said Mark Neuwirth, executive vice president of business development for the company founded 50 years ago by his father, Frank J. Neuwirth, who died in 2005 at the age of 73.

Unex manufactures shelving and storage units and is considered an industry leader in providing innovative order picking solutions that maximizes space usage, increases pick rates and improves ergonomics at the point of pick. The company’s line of products is sold through distributors in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

The company, which is moving from Jackson township to Oak Street and New Hampshire Avenue, Lakewood, is renovating the building formerly occupied by Bradco to accommodate the light assembly manufacturing operations, said Brian Neuwirth, Mark’s brother and company president.

Steven Reinman, the executive director of the Lakewood Industrial Commission (LIC) and the acting township municipal manager, said, “We are very pleased to welcome Unex to the Lakewood Industrial Park. The LIC and the township are very proud of our industrial park and its ability to continue to grow with world-class companies like Unex who are expanding their operations here. The addition of Unex will further solidify Lakewood’s position as a leading job center and engine for regional economic growth.”

“The renovations have started and the manufacturing operations should be in place by January 1,” Mark Neuwirth said. “We expect to have between 50 and 100 employees at the site.”

That’s a far cry from 1964, when his father, with five employees and a garage for an office in Fairfield, manufactured the first cable-driven live roller conveyor in 1964. The product offered significant cost savings over traditional belt-driven conveyors and launched Unex as an order selection system provider.

From that point on, customers turned to Unex to design solutions to improve order picking. The manufacturing facility moved to Toms River in 1973 and Jackson in 1977 and now does business in several international markets, including Canada, Mexico, Latin America, South America and Indonesia, according to the company’s website, www.unex.com.

“All over the world, countries are undergoing or have recently undergone their own ‘Industrial Revolution.’ And with the shift to a goods-based, first world type of economy, these countries increasingly need places like warehouses and distribution centers to store their goods,” according to the Unex company blog.

Unex literature notes that its “pickologists” design and provide engineering support for all of its products with one goal in mind: to help customers keep processes and profits flowing.

“We offer a full range of order picking solutions, including our patented carton flow solution Span-Track. Developed by Unex engineers in 1993, Span-Track provides conveyor-like carton flow that doubles the capacity of carton flow systems. Unex carton flow can be integrated into any structure, ranging from shelving to specialized pick modules,” according to the company website.

For more information, including international offerings and capabilities, connect with Unex.com, Twitter, Facebook or Google Plus or call 1-800-695-SPAN (7726).

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