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Scheck Safety

SCHECK'S TALENT AND INNOVATION PAVE THE WAY FOR FUTURE GROWTH.

In an ever-changing world of construction – new technology, the latest equipment, the most innovative processes – Schreck Industries (www.goscheck.com), a leading industrial contracting com-

pany, has found that sticking to one simple rule throughout its 30 years continues to transcend the test of time.

"We are all about people," says Schreck President and CEO Randy Peach. "Bottom line. We always have been – always will be. The contracting business used to be about building great relationships – you knew the people building your project. Now, with so much transition and consolidation at the large contracting companies and even with our clients, faces are frequently changing. Clients still want to know, however, that the person on their site today is going to be the same contact tomorrow."

Scheck takes pride in attracting and retaining top talent in the industry, including subject matter experts in their fields. Last year, Schreck hired Karen Layng, former

shareholder and litigation, compensation committee and construction group chair, from a major Chicago law firm, to shepherd Schreck business strategy and to serve as general counsel.

In September 2014, Randy Peach took over as president and CEO, and Layng was promoted to chief strategic officer. Thereafter, the company brought in a leading construction-industry CFO, Kevin McDonnell. Peach, Layng and McDonnell, along with the rest of the executive leadership and managers at Schreck, present a formidable team that is focused on Schreck's long-term success.

Headquartered just 20 miles south of Chicago in Countryside, Ill., Schreck Industries is a full-service national industrial and process piping, boiler services and instru-

Scheck Industries

www.goscheck.com

- **2014 revenue:** \$120 million
- **Headquarters:** Countryside, Ill.
- **Employees:** 800
- **Specialty:** Power and process piping, instrumentation and boiler services

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-Randy Peach, president and CEO



mentation and process controls contractor. It's celebrating its 30th anniversary and shows no signs of slowing down.

The family-owned company began with a four-person team led by founder and current chairman, Richard Scheck. Today, Scheck is a \$120 million leader in mechanical construction with core expertise in the refinery, power, chemical, pulp and paper, semiconductor, renewable energy, food and beverage, and the pharmaceutical industries.

Scheck Industries, though family owned and operated for the last 30 years, is now being led by a non-family member. Peach worked his way up through the company, beginning in 2001 as a project executive on a cogeneration project in the northeastern United States. The strong connection Peach built with his co-workers and founder, Richard N. Scheck, was immediate and led him to eventually landing the company's top position.

"When I finished my first project with Scheck, Rich offered me an opportunity to stay on and continue in management," Peach says. "Rich always said if you want the best, you hire the best. I trusted him that day, and every day thereafter; this mantra has served Scheck and me well."

It is this loyalty and confidence that has sustained Scheck Industries through tough economies and growing pains. "It takes years to build a strong team," Peach says. "But what sets us apart from other employers is the culture of friendship that we foster and protect. It is not about what you say,



» Scheck Industries is a \$120 million leader in mechanical construction for industry.

it is about what you do and how you feel. We help and support each other. It is that friendship that builds a strong team and which permeates all our jobsites throughout the country, and our customers pick up on it. We provide stability and consistency to both our workers and our customers."

Peach reflects on the decreasing number of specialty contractors in the marketplace, a much different landscape than even 10

years ago. With small construction companies continuing to be consumed by larger conglomerates, Scheck has carved out a unique niche in the industry by simply remaining independently strong. According to Peach, the limited number of mid-sized construction companies provides ample opportunity to Scheck's growing cadre of skilled labor and non-manual supervision, which is essential to its national projects.

Priority No. 1: Safety

Scheck's key priority is employee safety. With a long-standing, industry-leading safety record, Scheck's attention to detail and consistency sets it apart from other companies.

"Our company is founded on keeping our people safe, making sure they go home every night to their families and loved ones," Peach says. "You do not garner a zero-injury safety record by being lucky. We retain our people; we have little turnover. We might bring in 200 people on a project, and it's not uncommon for 180 of them to have worked for Scheck on prior projects. Our employees know our safety requirements and high standards, our absenteeism policies and our expectation of an honest day's work."

Commitment to Innovation

The commitment to innovation and quality that Scheck provides its employees is reflected in ScheckTRAC™, its proprietary, confidential project-tracking software. ScheckTRAC™ allows team leaders to manage and measure project costs, progress, labor productivity and key performance indicators.

"Customers are concerned about safety, quality and cost," Peach says. "Our ability to predictively plan cost expenditures and monitor against set budgets, jointly and openly developed with our customers, can head off problems. ScheckTRAC™ is the tool that allows us to make real-time decisions and communicate with them effectively.

"An additional benefit of ScheckTRAC™ is its ability to be customized to provide background data on facility maintenance expenses," Peach adds. "For one long-term HVAC service client, we used the software to track and compile a report on their maintenance expenses over the course of time, and even anticipate what additional

expenses would be looming in the near future. When compared to the cost of new equipment and facility upgrades, the customer was able to compare alternatives in the short- and long-terms, and make well-informed decisions."

The company also uses ScheckTRAC™ to forecast costs within timelines. "When a plant is shut down for any period of time, our client is not making money," Peach explains.

"If the planned shutdown is 20 days and we can predictively communicate and substantiate to our customers that we can finish earlier, the client can save significant sums and can reallocate funds to complete other projects which were otherwise not budgeted, saving downtime and future outage costs."

Staying on top of trends

A good leader spots an opportunity before the competition. A visionary leader anticipates the opportunities and brings the competition closer. With new technology and innovations unveiled frequently, Scheck's response might seem a bit unconventional. Surveying the competition and even – at appropriate times – collaborating with those in similar capacities is not a typical construction growth strategy. Yet Peach understands that skills, ideas and knowledge can be garnered in some of the most surprising areas.

Peach has unwavering confidence in Scheck and its employees in the years to come. "Scheck will not fail at anything we do," he says. "We won't let it. We have one ultimate goal – to achieve complete customer satisfaction. Although we are not perfect, how we react and adjust to any setback is what differentiates us. Our customers can't afford failure. At the end of the day – no matter what – we will band together. We will succeed and enjoy the journey along the way." ♦





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