

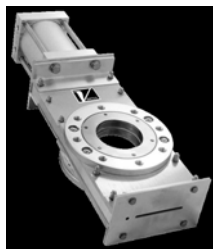


SALINA VORTEX® CORPORATE HISTORY

For over 30 years, Vortex® has provided material handling solutions to a global network of Original Equipment Manufacturers, Fortune 500 companies, and process engineering firms. Throughout the world, over 10,000 companies such as PolyOne, Dow Chemical, Nestle, and Morton Salt have utilized Vortex®'s innovative slide gates, diverters, iris valves, and custom engineered products to improve process efficiency.

1977 to 1989: Innovations in Process Efficiency

Neil Peterson and Lee Young started Salina Vortex® in an early Cold War era military building in 1977. Salina Vortex® was named after Salina, Kansas (the city of which the company was founded) and 'Vortex' after Neil's initial valve concept that created a vortex to direct material flow. His purpose and dream was to design and manufacture innovative and problem-solving valves for handling dry materials in pneumatic conveying systems typically handled poorly by butterfly valves and liquid knife gates.



Orifice Gate™

In 1980, the company was awarded a patent on the Orifice Gate™. This new valve design surpassed the industry's expectations for handling dry materials in pneumatic conveying. *Chemical Processing Magazine* awarded the Orifice Gate™ its "Vaaler Award"--judging it a major contributor toward more efficient and effective operation of plants in the chemical processing industry. This achievement changed the way process engineers selected valves for handling dry solids.

Between 1980 and 1989 additional products were developed. After the Orifice Gate™, the unique Wye Line Diverter™ was invented. The diverter applied the same design concepts of the Orifice Gate™ dramatically improving process efficiencies when compared to traditional flapper or tunnel style diverters. The Clear Action Gate™ was also conceived and patented during this decade. Each new product added more dimension to the material handling capabilities of the Vortex® line of gates and valves.

1990 to 1999: Becoming the Industry Standard

Lee Young became CEO of the company in 1989 in preparation for Neil's retirement. The company added more valves and diverters to its expanding product line: Flex Tube Diverter™, Gravity Vee™ Diverter, Multi-Port Diverter™, and Quick Clean Orifice Gate™. Under Lee's direction, Vortex® continued to increase its market presence and expand its manufacturing facilities throughout the 1990s earning Lee the Ernst and Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 1999.

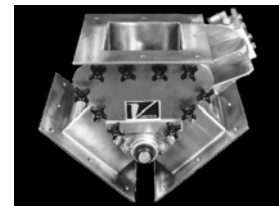
The company received many other awards for new product development and achievement such as two "Innovation in Powder/Bulk Technology Awards" (the only repeat winner for this award), Kansas Society of Professional Engineer's "Governor's New Product Award", Kansas Department of

Commerce's "Breakthrough Product of the Year Award", and Kansas "Exporter of the Year" finalist.

2000 to Present: Expanding Capabilities and Markets

Since 2000, Vortex® has continued to increase its market share and develop innovative, patented products under the direction of a new CEO, Jeff Thompson. By summer 2006, Vortex® had added the HDP® Slide Gate, Iris Valve, Aggregate Diverter™, and the 3-Way Seal Tite™ Diverter. Additional industry recognition followed throughout the world:

- *Chemical Processing Magazine's* "Vaaler Award" for the Seal Tite™ Gravity Diverter
- *Processing Magazine's* "Breakthrough Product of the Year" for the HDP® Slide Gate
- *Processing Magazine's* "Breakthrough Product of the Year" for the Seal Tite™ Gravity Diverter
- American Institute of Chemical Engineer's "Best in Show Award" for the 2001 International Powder Show
- *Powder and Bulk Engineering Magazine's* "Reader's Choice Award" for the 3-Way Seal Tite™ Diverter
- *Powder and Bulk Engineering Magazine's* "Reader's Choice Award" for the HDP® Slide Gate
- *Chemical Equipment Magazine's* "Reader's Choice Award" for the Seal Tite™ Gravity Diverter
- *Plant Engineering Magazine's* "Product of the Year" finalist for the Seal Tite™ Gravity Diverter
- *Powder and Bulk Engineering Magazine's* "Reader's Choice Award" for the Quantum® Orifice Gate™.



2-Way Seal Tite™ Diverter

To address increasing demand of these new product lines, Vortex® had to expand by building a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility and office complex that spans over a 15-acre campus. This new complex is located at 1725 Vortex Avenue in Salina, Kansas.



Vortex's new headquarters built in 2006

Vortex® Valves, a Division of Salina Vortex® Corporation

1725 Vortex Ave • Salina, KS 67401 • USA • Email: vortex@vortexvalves.com • Web: www.vortexvalves.com

North America Tel: +1 785 825 7177 • **Europe** Tel: +44 (0) 870 770 9861

Latin America Tel: +1 785 309 2138 • **Asia-Pacific** Tel: +86 (0) 21 5835 0100



SALINA VORTEX® CORPORATE HISTORY

This new facility allows enough space for Vortex® to introduce lean manufacturing methods supported by leading-edge fabrication equipment and laser cutting technology, as well as provide additional offices for its corporate staff.



The Vortex® facility is able to handle custom orders such as this 80" Seal Tite™ Diverter



Vortex® uses the latest technology

Having more floor space meant increased capabilities for Vortex®. In 2007, Salina Vortex® officially launched two different divisions to accommodate the growing demand of products. Vortex® Valves Europe was established in Darlington, England, to cover Europe, while Vortex® Valves North America was formed to concentrate on customers in USA, Canada and Mexico.

Salina Vortex® also created Vortex® Valves Latin America the following year to serve customers throughout Central and South America. Although the base office is located in the USA, a dedicated phone line and email address is answered by Vortex®'s bilingual staff members.

With more potential customers spanning the globe, but less people attending tradeshows, Vortex® decided to take its products to the customer via the MDU (Mobile Display Unit), a traveling show room. Just like the building, Vortex® had outgrown the full-size van it started with in the 1980s, and now boasts a semi-truck in the USA and cargo trailers in Europe and Mexico and a van in Asia. Vortex® salesmen travel to the customer's facility where they demonstrate the air actuated valves and diverters to engineers, maintenance personnel and purchasing managers.



Vortex®'s MDU, Asia-Pacific



Vortex®'s MDU, North America



Vortex®'s MDU, Europe

In 2008, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius recognized Vortex® as a growing global company and awarded Vortex® with the "2008 Governor's Exporter of the Year Award". The "Exporter of the Year Award" is presented annually to a single Kansas company that has demonstrated excellence in export sales and international marketing.



Vortex® Chairman Lee Young and Vortex® CEO Jeff Thompson receive the "Exporter of the Year Award" from Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius

Vortex® continues to provide its global customers with excellent service and products. Vortex® was granted a patent for the Quantum® Series Orifice Gate™ and Wye Line Diverter™ in 2009. The innovative Quantum® design reduces the number of assembly pieces by half. The Quantum® features more material of construction options such as aluminum, carbon steel and stainless steel.



Quantum® 4-Way Wye Line Diverter™

In 2009, Salina Vortex® realized a need for another division and opened Vortex® Valves Asia-Pacific in Shanghai, China, to support Vortex®'s China representatives and other areas in the Asia and Pacific markets.

Vortex® continues to expand its operations to provide the highest level of service, technical support, and quality to its clients throughout the world. Currently, Vortex® has representatives in over 30 countries around the world, and Vortex®'s presence continues to grow.

Vortex® employees proudly practice core values of integrity, respect, humility, and a passion to contribute. Vortex®'s philosophy is to consistently exceed its customers' expectations by providing the highest quality, innovative products and exceptional customer service in the industry.

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