

Allied-Gator's expansion



DESIGNED AND BUILT AROUND ALLIED-GATOR's newest production technologies and equipment, this major expansion will help accelerate the production of Allied-Gator's line of hydraulic attachments including the patented MT™ Series Multi-Tool™ while also meeting the company's exacting manufacturing standards.

"We focus on innovation"

The company is even utilizing the MT Series Multi-Tool around the construction site, performing tasks such as the precision-cutting of rebar for use in concrete columns and foundations and the separation and downsizing of foundation fill material.

"We focus on innovation," says Ramun. "We know the demolition industry well and understand the ever-increasing pressure our customers face to improve efficiency and productivity. So it makes sense that we apply the same approach to manufacturing our products. Everything we invest in the quality of our precision manufacturing processes pays off many times over in the performance and durability our products provide in the field."

But while Ramun characterizes the new facility as being a major leap in Allied-Gator's manufacturing capabilities, it will not alter the values that have defined the company since it was founded in 1973 by Mike's father, company President John Ramun and grandfather, Mike Ramun. "As a family business, our reputation is very important to us," he says. "From the composition of our product line to our approach to development and testing, Allied-Gator does things differently than any other manufacturer. Customers who purchase our tools also benefit from our decades of experience with heavy industrial tool design, our dedication to continual product improvement and innovation, as well as our commitment to offering a superior product."

Since Allied-Gator introduced the MT Series Multi-Tool line in 2001, customers have benefited from a wealth of versatility as

well. Available in 11 sizes from 360kg to 23.5t, customers can utilize the MT Series Multi-Tool with patented Allied-Gator Quick-Change™ Shear and Cracker/Crusher Jaw Sets on machines ranging from skid steers and compacts to super-sized excavators. "Every time you give contractors another degree of versatility, you're saving them money and increasing their capacities by giving them the ability to effectively compete where they couldn't before," says Ramun.

Tough demolition in Alaska

Versatility, not to mention reliability and durability, are particularly critical in remote work locations, a fact that project manager of Anchorage, Alaska-based demolition contractor Coldfoot Environmental Ron Tharaldson knows all too well.

In Valdez, Alaska, Coldfoot used the MT Series Multi-Tool model MTR 20 to completely remove a large commercial fish processing plant as part of a waterfront redevelopment project. Once the plant's massive steel structure was removed with the Shear Jaw Set, Coldfoot immediately relocated the tool across town to demolish a 7,250m², heavily reinforced concrete hospital structure with the Cracker/Crusher Jaw Set to make way for a new medical facility. Built following the 1964 Alaskan earthquake, the existing hospital structure was designed mostly of 610mm thick concrete floors, ceilings, and walls filled with 32mm diameter rebar to more than withstand even stronger earthquakes.

Despite having a window of fewer than 120 days to complete both assignments, "the Allied-Gator MT helped us eliminate several hundred man hours and at least 200 machine hours, finishing the projects over one month ahead of schedule," says Tharaldson, who credits the tool's power and his team's ability to change jaws quickly and continually



throughout each project.

Tharaldson adds that the MTR 20 and a single 25 t excavator removed and processed 8,774m³ of concrete from the hospital site alone. "It was unbelievable," he says. "Even with all that heavy concrete and rebar, we never even wore out our first set of teeth on this tool."

While not all demolition projects take place in such extreme conditions, contractors are finding that adaptable tools are the key to ensuring productivity. And that, Ramun says, is what makes the MT Series Multi-Tool so valuable. "The tool is predictable, smooth, and precise, and there's always a surplus of power to work with," he says. "That allows contractors to get their work done more efficiently, safeguard their operators from unnecessary risks, and keep maintenance costs to a minimum."

These MT features allow contractors to perform extremely high-volume projects with surprisingly small equipment and crews. For example, Eslich Wrecking Co., Canton, Ohio, was contracted to completely strip out the interior of a 372,000m² former Ford van plant in Loraine, Ohio, to make way for an industrial warehouse centre. According to Matt Eslich, Eslich Wrecking's Scrap Manager, speed and efficiency were crucial elements to the project, as each completed phase of the facility is rented out by the building owner as storage space.

Equipped with a third-member mounted MTR 10 on a 6.7t mini excavator, two skid-steers, and one aerial lift for torch men, the Eslich crew began to tackle the entire plant. They subsequently added a third-member MTR 15 on a 13.6t mini excavator to double productivity. Although limited ceiling heights, emission restrictions, and fuel costs required Eslich to use his company's smallest machines for the project, "the small MTs cut all the double-walled channel iron and even the tool rail we used to have to torch," he says. "Our operators are much more accurate because they don't have to guess at what they are cutting; they can see it. The accuracy of this tool has enabled us to cut right to the bottom of the truss lines without twisting the bar joint. These tools cut scrap clean, which has reduced our amount of torching on this project by more than half."

Transitional times

The MT Series Multi-Tool's shearing and crushing capabilities will be especially important to contractors as more states and

localities heighten their focus on recycling to reduce the amount of salvageable demolition materials being sent to landfills. "Many contractors are struggling with this issue, but it actually opens the door to some very attractive opportunities," says Ramun. "Traditionally, contractors had to go out of their way to process demolition materials to this degree, but contractors using the Multi-Tool find themselves preparing the materials as they demolish. This results in safer and more controlled demolition methods, more sellable products, and lowered costs for hauling and land filling. That's good for the environment, the community, and the contractor's bottom line."

Ramun adds that materials recycling is but one of the many new operational challenges that demolition contractors will have to contend with in the coming years. "Change is inevitable for everyone, which overall is good for the industry," he says. "But we will soon reach the point where demolition contractors who use traditional methods will find it even harder to compete and perform effectively in the industry without these new technologies."

The added capacity and production capabilities of Allied-Gator's new manufacturing facility will be instrumental in helping demolition contractors address these and other industry challenges. Long-term plans call for adding even more specialized products designed to meet the increasing demands of special demolition and heavy scrap recycling applications. "The Allied-Gator pipeline is full of new ideas," says Ramun. "We're looking forward to sharing the benefits of our future products with demolition industry professionals in the coming years."

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Allied-Gator, Inc. sales and marketing manager Mike Ramun cannot help but smile when he thinks about the new 39,000m² manufacturing facility that the company is constructing as an expansion to its Youngstown, Ohio, headquarters in the US.



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