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(From left) Brandon, Adam, and Gary Pitsch (owner & president) of Pitsch Enterprises, Inc., a versatile recycling company located in Grand Rapids Michigan.
Photo courtesy of Allied-Gator

Pitsch Enterprises ~ A Multi-Dimensional Operation

by Kelly Gates

Gary Pitsch grew up working in his family's Grand Rapids, MI. demolition and site clearing company, amassing a wealth of industry experience and forming strong business relationships with steel brokers in the global marketplace. In January of 2006, when Pitsch decided to start his own company, Pitsch Enterprises, Inc., his extensive background in the industry enabled him to take on a wide variety of jobs.

Recently, Pitsch Enterprises has been managing scrap metal recycling, concrete removal, concrete recycling and concrete replacement projects for Consumer's Energy, the largest energy supplier in the state of Michigan.

"Consumer's Energy went through a boiler replacement at one of its plants in [western Michigan], removing the boiler, coal feeding system, induction fans and other components and replacing them with an entirely new system," he said. "We were hired to process all of the steel pulled from the plant, and find markets where it could be sold."

While Pitsch already had sales contacts in the steel industry, he didn't have the equipment he needed to discern the metal alloys in the material he was processing. So, he bought an Innov-X Systems analyzer, which enabled him to do just that.

"The instrument sends out a radiation signal into the metal and then analyzes the various return signals to compute the chemical makeup of the metal. We were able to separate, process and market the various alloys to the highest end-user bidder," he said. "Managing an elaborate project like this, especially figuring out all of the markets I needed to find, required getting down to the point of the chemistry of the metal."

Science of alloys aside, the remainder of the job was fairly straightforward, he said.

As the steel components were removed from the power plant, they were transported to a fly ash pit directly across the street. There, his crew systematically processed, sorted and readied the material for shipping, a task that began in August and ended in May of this year.

"The crew worked with two Caterpillar 330BL excavators and a Volvo L-120B wheel loader. One Cat

330BL was fitted with a second member, Allied-Gator MTR 70 S shear. The other was fitted with a third member, Allied-Gator MTR 40 S shear. The Cat 330BL fitted for the MTR 40 S was also equipped with a 15 KW hydraulic driven generator system. The Cats ran for two, ten (10) hour shifts, six days per week. One hour before the end of the second shift, the crew would remove the MTR 40 S shear and install an

to process the wood."

The power company also asked Pitsch Enterprises to handle a unique concrete project on its land. The job entails the removal of concrete fish tanks that were once used to raise perch. According to Pitsch, the defunct fishery company chose the location



Mark Mushong hauls old crane mats to the grinding work area, operating a Volvo L120 wheel loader equipped with a Volvo fork attachment.



"Pitsch Enterprises utilizes the Allied-Gator MTR 70 S to quickly and effectively process the project's heaviest scrap materials."

Photos courtesy of Pitsch Enterprises

Allied-Gator ME 40 Mag Extension and a 57 inch Walker magnet. The day shift operator would begin his shift by loading out the processed metal. By noon, the MTR 40 S shear would be reinstalled and the remaining shift would be spent processing. "After several months of switching the attachments every day, it only took two of our guys around 15 minutes to take off the shear and put on the mag."

All attachments—the MTR 40 S shear, the ME 40 Mag Extension and the MTR 70 S shear—were purchased from Allied-Gator in August of 2006. The units were bought for use on the Consumer's Energy job, but with the array of demolition projects Pitsch Enterprises is capable of managing, they will certainly prove useful in other applications.

Along with the Allied-Gator tools, the company's Volvo L120 loader has four complimentary Volvo attachments. Pitsch also owns a landfill operation, a waste hauling business and a concrete recycling facility and with the connection to his family's other companies, he is able to pull from a large fleet of equipment whenever necessary.

His two sons, Adam and Brandon, are intricately involved with the new business. Brandon is head of the company's operator's union and supervises many of its jobs while Adam runs a torch crew for the multi-faceted outfit.

The family company has continued working for Consumer's Energy in recent months, taking on several very different projects.

"Once we finished the steel processing job for Consumer's Energy, they asked us to grind a large amount of wood pallets and cribbage that had accumulated on their property. In addition, they have begun the construction of a new five acre, fly ash cell in a wooded area adjacent to their existing fill," said Pitsch. "We're using a Bandit model 3680 horizontal wood grinder

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Pitsch Enterprises ~ A Multi-Dimensional Operation



"Pitsch Enterprises interchanges the Allied-Gator MTR 40 S (pictured) with the Allied-Gator ME 40 Mag Extension which increases versatility by giving them the ability to shear and mag with one machine."



A Bandit 3680 horizontal grinder was used to process pallets and cribbage.

(Cont. from Page 5)

because of the warm waters emitted by the power plant.

"The plant pumps in water from Lake Michigan and uses it to condense steam. The water that is pumped back out is warm, which was perfect for raising perch," he said. "When the commercial fishery went out of business, Consumer's asked us to remove the concrete fish tanks, recycle the material and pour new concrete so the space could be used as a warehouse."

With the one power plant keeping his company busy month after month, another Consumer's Energy location called on Pitsch Enterprises to help clean up a

site after a major wind storm. The storm produced wind gusts that blew the plant's five-story tall radial stacking conveyor around its concrete foundation and ultimately, off the edge.

Because the conveyor was used regularly to offload railcars full of coal, it was crucial that the damaged unit was removed quickly so a new, functioning system could be installed and production could continue.

"We were able to cut up the old conveyor and have it completely cleared from the site within one week," said Pitsch.

In the future, Pitsch plans to keep processing steel,

but his company is also positioned to do demolition and site clearing work as well as concrete recycling, waste management and any other related work that clients might throw his way. And, as he continues purchasing new tools for his versatile business, the list of services he and his sons are able to offer customers will likely grow as well.

For more information on Pitsch Enterprises write 675 Richmond St. NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 or call 616-365-4895 (ph).

Allied-Gator, Inc. Still Serving the Demolition and Scrap Recycling Industries

by Kelly Gates

Allied-Gator, Inc. has been committed to serving the demolition and scrap recycling industries since its inception in 1973. The Youngstown, Oh.-based company specializes in producing heavy-duty hydraulic attachments capable of withstanding the demanding tasks its customers might endeavor-from light-duty work to the most extreme applications.

According to Mike Ramun, sales and marketing manager for Allied-Gator, each piece of equipment produced by the manufacturer is truly innovative in design.

"Every product we manufacture contains proprietary features that are the direct result of Allied-Gator's original thinking and a deep understanding of the industries we serve," said Ramun. "Our goal is to offer technologies that are not available anywhere else in the industry. Our products maximize customers' production capabilities and versatility by meeting a wide variety of their needs in many different applications."

The company's current line of hydraulic attachments includes the patented MT Series Multi-Tool, the patent-pending MT Series Mag Extension, and the patented Allied-Gator Claw Bucket.

The MT Series Multi-Tool is widely used in the scrap metal recycling industry and is available in shear and cracker/crusher configurations, with sizes ranging from 700 to 52,000 lbs. The Multi-Tool units also boast the company's patented Quick-Change Jaw

Sets and Universal Coupling System (UCS) Technology, which enables users to quickly change work applications and effortlessly swap out attachments.

The company's MT Series Mag Extension performs all of the duties of a traditional magnet, but offers a uniquely wide range of motion and Allied-Gator's UCS Technology.

"Together, the MT Series Multi-Tool and Mag Extension provide a single machine the distinctive ability to perform demolition, processing, material handling and site clean up, eliminating the need for several machines bound to single-duty functions," said Ramun.

One of Allied-Gator's customers, Pitsch Enterprises of Grand Rapids, MI, has experienced firsthand just how efficient the manufacturer's proprietary designs can be. The company recently used two Allied-Gator MT Series Multi-Tools with Shear Jaw Sets-an MTR 70 S mounted 2nd member on a Caterpillar 330 and an MTR 40 S mounted 3rd member on another Caterpillar 330-as well as an ME 40 Mag Extension to interchange with the MTR 40 S on a metal processing job for Michigan power-provider, Consumer's Energy.

"The Multi-Tools worked well for shearing the metal pulled from a boiler replacement project at the power plant and we used the Mag Extension to load trucks carrying shipments of the processed steel away from the site," said Gary Pitsch, owner of Pitsch Enterprises. "There are several benefits to having

Allied-Gator's MTR 40 S Multi-Tool and ME 40 Mag Extension, which only take 15 minutes to change out. We don't waste time when switching from a shear application to a magnet application, and we only need one excavator in order to shear and mag with maximum efficiency."

In effect, Allied-Gator's attachments turn a single excavator into a multi-functional piece of equipment, he added.

• As for Pitsch Enterprises, when the company's 10-month metal recycling project at Consumer's Energy was completed, its crew used the Allied-Gator tools to dismantle, process and load the remnants of a five- to six-story radial stacking conveyor for another power plant in Michigan.

Utilizing the MT's patented Quick-Change Jaw Set feature, Gary Pitsch also plans to use his Allied-Gator equipment on other demolition and scrap metal recycling projects in upcoming years and with a concrete recycling operation on the side, his business could eventually benefit from the acquisition of Quick-Change Cracker/Crusher Jaw Sets for the MT Series Multi-Tools he already owns.

With a truly unique line of hydraulic attachments in tow, Allied-Gator is also looking to the future. The innovative manufacturer is currently working on a range of new products that are scheduled to be rolled out in 2008.