

ABC Group Celebrates 40 Years of Success

Over the past four decades, ABC Group has grown from a single facility to a global workforce of 5,000 employees and 27 manufacturing facilities across Canada (Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia), the United States (Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee), and Mexico, Brazil, Spain, Poland and China, as well as technical sales offices in Japan and Germany.

GROWTH & EXPANSIONS ABC Group's expansion has been particularly rapid in recent years, as the company has aggressively expanded its global manufacturing footprint in order to respond to its customers. "When the automotive original equipment manufacturers started focusing on globalization of their programs in recent years, we responded," said Helga Schmidt, CEO and Chairman of ABC Group. "Over the past three years, we have been strategically focused on global growth, with the implementation of new plants in Mexico, the United States (Tennessee) and China and facility expansions in Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Ontario."

Mrs. Schmidt says that as the company enters the next chapter in its history, it will embrace continuous growth and actively look for more opportunities across the globe.

"Alliances and joint venture partnerships are an important part of our company's rapid expansion over the past few years, and are an excellent way to maximize technology, footprint and synergies with like-minded partners," said Mary Anne Bueschkens, President and General Counsel of ABC Group. "This helps to diversify our product offering and increase our global platform coverage."

An example is ABC Group's successful joint venture with INOAC Corporation, which primarily focuses on spoilers for the North American market. ABC Group also has a joint venture in China with Huaxiang Co. and INOAC Corporation, with manufacturing facilities in Shenyang and Ningbo. In 2014, ABC Group formed joint venture ABCOR Filters in Ontario, Canada working with Italian company, Cornaglia, to design, develop and manufacture filters for air induction systems.

RECOGNIZED SUCCESSES ABC Group has emerged as one of the top industrial automotive manufacturers in North America and its work has gained increasing industry recognition and awards. The company has been named General Motor's Supplier of the Year for three consecutive years, and was also the winner of this year's inaugural GM Overdrive Award. Helga Schmidt was honored with the first President's Award from WEConnect Canada for outstanding leadership in implementing supplier diversity in business enterprises run by women in Canada.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT ABC Group's sustained successes are founded on a drive for continuous improvement that has propelled the company's growth since its inception. "ABC is not just investing in bricks and mortar in order to increase our global footprint, we believe the key to our continued competitive success on global platforms is through advanced product development, continuous improvement in our facilities, and the training and development of our employees," said Bueschkens. She also added that the dedication and hard work of those employees has directly contributed to the company's steady growth over the past 40 years.

THE FUTURE OF ABC Looking forward, Helga Schmidt sees a bright future for ABC Group, as it continues to grow and expand well into the next decade. "In the ever-transforming automotive world in which we reside, we the suppliers must continue to adapt ourselves in order to be successful. ABC Group's 40 year milestone represents a commitment to our growing list of customers, something that would not be possible without the investment in innovation and our employees," said Mrs. Schmidt.

ABC Group is well positioned for continued innovation and success for years to come.

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