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Rockford Corporation: An American leader

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With 40-plus years of pipeline work for West Coast energy providers, this company shows no sign of slowing down

Written by Chase Duncan

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Located right off the Sunset Highway in Hillsboro, Oregon, just outside of Portland, Rockford Corporation is one of the leading pipeline and infrastructure construction companies in America. For more than 40 years the company has worked to serve its clients' needs in pipeline construction, maintenance, directional drilling and facilities support.

In addition to the Hillsboro headquarters - which according to the Rockford Corp website performs major pipeline construction projects throughout the Northwestern and Southwestern United States - there are two other major offices. The Rio Vista, California, site performs facility upgrades and maintenance in the state of California while the Toledo, Washington, location performs compliance inspections, pipeline inspections, pipeline upgrades and maintenance in the state of Washington.

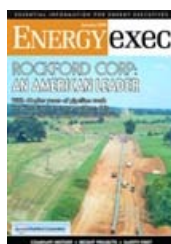
In addition to the aforementioned services, Rockford Corp also has a tremendous fleet of pipeline equipment which includes 55 sidebooms and related lowboys, service trucks, skids, mats, and other apparatus needed to perform large and small diameter pipeline work on all types of terrain. In addition, the corporate website states, the company has a strong balance sheet and minimal debt. With its established full service, responsive construction and maintenance organization, it strives to serve all the needs of the energy providers on the West Coast.

Currently heading up Rockford Corp is Frank Welch, a 30-year veteran of the construction industry with tons of experience in pipeline and petrochemical industries. Welch, who came to Rockford in 1999 and rose to the rank of President in 2005, has extensive experience in pipeline installations in environmentally-sensitive areas in all parts of the United States.

Company history

Rockford Corp was established in 1967 by Lemmie Rockford.

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Interview with

Ibraheem Assaadan
VP Exploration, Saudi Aramco

Q: There is a school of thought that many Middle Eastern companies are focusing on enhancing their existing wells as opposed to exploration. Do you think that is a short-term view?



Ibraheem Assaadan: "It's not the optimum solution. But going radical when it comes to R&D and exploration is not always the right approach, however we realize there is a need to deal with short-term fluctuations..."

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Associations and Events



Similar to many successful companies in the pipeline and construction industries, Rockford has been able to change with the times. "In order to meet the growing demand Rockford has undergone several restructuring processes and since 1990 has been based in Oregon, primarily serving the Northwestern region of the United States. As a privately-owned company, Rockford saw steady growth throughout the 1990's and in 2005 performed \$87 million dollars worth of construction work extending service to the Mid- and Southwestern United States," it says on the site.

A big change for the company came in July of 2006 when Rockford Corp took on a primary investment partner. According to the website,

this move made the business a privately-held company, which was owned by Second City Capital as well as Lorne Stoppler, Lemmie O. Rockford, Patrick Rockford and Welch collectively. The move has been a good transition for Rockford Corp.

"Since that time Rockford's workload has more than doubled and in 2007 projects amounted to \$215 million," states the company's website. "Rockford continues to grow, providing jobs and servicing more of the United States while maintaining its reputation for excellence in the pipeline industry. Rockford remains dedicated to quality, safety and service."

Recent projects

As one of the leading pipeline construction companies in America, Rockford Corp has a substantial project resume. It works primarily in the energy and gas sectors. A listing of its current and past projects reveals when it comes to these particular sectors, Rockford Corp has a firm grasp on pipeline construction in these industries.

One project it just completed is an installation for Lodi Gas out of the Northern California. Completed in November of 2008, the job involved the installation of two 3801 compressors, as well as all associated piping and filters. It also included putting in 4,100 feet of 12 inch pipe that will connect three well pads.

One project completed only a month ago in December was a pipeline installation for Transwestern in Casa Grande, Arizona. According to the Rockford Corp website, the project included laying down 144 miles of 36 inch pipeline from north of Phoenix to the Casa Grande area. Though it was mostly desert construction there were some highly-congested areas. The project required several directional drills and special dry wash construction.

Safety first

One of the most important things at Rockford Corp is its dedication to a safe job site. The company's official statement on safety says it all: "Rockford Corporation is committed to the health and safety of all employees as well as the protection of the environment affected by our operations and the prevention of damage or loss to property and equipment. Rockford Corporation believes that the participation of its employees in behavior-based safety program efforts is very important to the continuous improvement of the company."

To ensure this statement is put into practice, Rockford Corp

Canadian Renewable Fuels Association

CRFA is taking an active part in promoting a future where the use of sustainable energy sources is mainstream....

Western States Petroleum Association

Western States Petroleum Association

Canadian Solar Industries Association

CanSIA has been the trusted voice of Canada's solar industry for more than 30 years

Western States Petroleum Association

Western States Petroleum Association provides consumers and businesses with adequate, reliable and affordable....

The Independent Oil & Gas Association of New York

This organization is educating New Yorkers on natural gas development

has a number of requirements for its employees. It says that its staff is expected to participate within the behavior-based safety program of the company. Rockford Corp notes this includes actively observing their work place for potential safety violations, speaking with co-workers and supervisors as to when they see opportunities for improvement, and by filling out Rockford Corp "Look Around" cards which the company provides

at each jobsite on a weekly basis →

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