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WHOLESALE

News of Plumbing • Heating • Cooling • Industrial Piping Distribution



Left to right are: Alan & Mona Vinturella, Loni Vinturella Banks and Chad Vinturella.

Southland Plumbing Supply hosted the grand re-opening of their Kitchen & Bath Design Center, a Kohler Next Generation Showroom, in suburban New Orleans during the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show this spring. More than 400 vendors, fellow Omni Buying Group members and key customers joined Southland's Vinturella family for this very special event. See feature coverage on page 48.



Aquatherm celebrates 40 years with rebranding

New product titles, logo

LONDON, UTAH – As it enters the 40th year of production, Aquatherm GmbH and its North American partner, Aquatherm North

America, released a refreshed logo and new product titles. The pipe manufacturing company, based in Attendorn, Germany, is one of the leading suppliers of polypropylene-random (PP-R) piping systems worldwide and has seven major product lines, five of which are currently avail-

able in North America.

“Aquatherm has been the world’s leading polypropylene pipe producer and innovator for decades, and as the company celebrates its 40th anniversary, we are proud to launch this rebranding campaign,” said

Dirk Rosenberg, managing director of Aquatherm GmbH. “Along with a fresh new logo, we have better aligned the names of our products with their applications.”

(Turn to After 40 years ... page 32.)



aquatherm



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Uponor North America expands to meet manufacturing demand

APPLE VALLEY, MINN. — In May, Uponor North America began breaking ground at its headquarters facility in Apple Valley, Minn., to add 17,500 square feet of manufacturing space. The expansion will help meet forecasted growth for crosslinked polyethylene (PEX) tubing for plumbing, fire sprinkler and radiant heating and cooling systems.

This will be the fifth expansion for the 1990-built facility, bringing the total space to 230,000 square

feet. The facility houses the North American corporate offices, manufacturing and Uponor Academy, the company's onsite training center.

"We are projecting substantial growth for our PEX product in the commercial and residential markets for plumbing, fire sprinkler and radiant floor heating and cooling systems," said Bill Gray, President of Uponor North America. "This expansion will allow us to continue our growth in the PEX marketplace and ensure we can meet current and future customer demand."

The expansion is set to be complete by October with a planned occupancy date of late December. The new facility will include 3,000 square feet of employee service areas, including an expanded lunch room, locker rooms, restrooms and outdoor seating.

"We are a 24/7 operation, so we're making PEX tubing every

minute of every day," said Rusty Callier, director of Operations at Uponor. "We want to make sure we have sufficient space to manufacture the tubing, as well as provide a positive and productive environment for the employees who are making the tubing."

The company is not just expanding its footprint, but also its workforce. On April 18, the facility hosted an onsite job fair that brought in more than 60 candidates looking for manufacturing and maintenance positions. Additionally, the company was awarded the 2013 Manufacturer of the Year award from the Manufacturers Alliance, recognizing the company's lean manufacturing operations and processes.

"This is an exciting time at Uponor," Callier said. "We are not only expanding our facility and growing our workforce, but we are also being recognized by our peers in the manufacturing industry. It's rewarding to be part of an organization that is continuing to invest in its future."

Visit www.uponorpro.com



"We're making PEX tubing every minute of every day."

Navien celebrates 35th anniversary

IRVINE, CALIF. — April 30 marked Navien's 35th year in business. Navigator, energy and environment are the three words from which the company name was created. Chairman Sohn congratulated company members for their contributions and dedication to furthering the corporate mission of providing customers with the ultimate comfortable living environment through energy efficient products by using innovative technology to create a healthier environment for our future generations.

"Navien is proud to be a leading

try's longest warranty (15 years) for the dual stainless steel heat exchangers, among other features, also won the plumbing Innovation Award at the AHR Expo this year. Additionally, one of our condensing gas water heaters, was selected a 'Best Buy' product in Premium Selection by

KD NAVIEN

Consumers Digest. Navien's CH, Combi-Boiler/Water Heater is recognized as the most efficient and economical combination boiler/water heater on the market today."

Eric Moffroid, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, thanked Chairman Sohn for his acknowledgement and added, "We want to recognize, in turn, our partner reps, wholesalers and installing contractors for their part in Navien's success to date. I particularly want to honor the Navien Service Specialists (NSS) and Navien Dealers who have attended our training classes and educated themselves, on their own time, in order to understand and participate in the benefits of the Navien product line."

Visit www.navienamerica.com

global green company," said Harrison Kim, CEO of Navien. "2013 has been an outstanding year for Navien. Our NPE series condensing gas water heater won the prestigious International Forum (IF) award for Product Design. The NPE series, with its 2" PVC venting capability, utilization of existing 1/2" gas lines, field gas convertibility and the indus-



Hajoca Corp. opens new showroom

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. — Hajoca Corporation has opened its state-of-the-art luxury plumbing showroom. Featuring bath and kitchen showroom pieces from across the globe, the company opened its doors with a cocktail reception.

Hajoca is one of the nation's largest privately held wholesale distributors of plumbing, heating, and industrial supplies. The Hendersonville location has traditionally offered residential plumbing products along with commercial plumbing products but now has expanded to offer those decorative custom plumbing fixtures seen on TV that many wish to have in their homes.

The local showroom has local staff with more than thirty years of combined plumbing experience who can find those rare plumbing gems to satisfy customers. This location boasts

one of the newest and most state-of-the-art Kohler showrooms and has been noted as a "Next Gen" showroom Kohler.

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