

# HORST ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING CO.

**J**ewel-like quality has been a hallmark of Horst Engineering & Manufacturing Co. since its founding in 1946.

The fierce determination, integrity, and passion that goes into making precision machined components for aerospace, medical, and other high technology industries; is attributed

machine tool, and aircraft industries.

After four years working from the second story of a barn, Harry built his dream plant in 1950. Located at the time in what was a new East Hartford industrial area, he thought he had all the space that he would ever need. The company is still headquartered in the same neighborhood, but its boundaries have been expanded globally.

Harry and his spouse, Sylvia, had three sons. Stanley, Steven, and Bert Livingston have all worked in the business, but it was Stanley and Steven, with support from Stanley's spouse, Lynn, who grew the business during the second generation of ownership. Bert forged a career in insurance and estate planning, serving many other family businesses. Over the years, many other family members have worked in the business.

Stanley and Steven turned the company's focus to contract manufacturing. In the 1980's and 1990's, commercial and military aerospace became the core markets for Horst Engineering's products as the company invested in state-of-the-art machining technologies. Swiss screw machining, turning, milling, roll threading, centerless grinding, and assembly are the primary processes that the company uses to manufacture close tolerance metal and polymer parts for critical applications. The company specializes in low-volume work and is known for producing a wide variety of parts that are made from difficult materials. The company's parts can be found on different types of aircraft around the globe.

Over the years, the main plant has grown, new plants have been added and acquisitions have been made. In 1995, Thread Rolling Inc. was established following the acquisition of Egan Machine, a Bristol-based manufacturer, to provide expanded threading and grinding services to other manufacturers.

President and CEO Scott Livingston, is Stanley and Lynn's son. He joined the company in 1995 and became president in 2001. Scott has built a professional management team to



PHOTO/ ALAN GRANT, DIGITAL CREATIONS, LLC

L to R: Stanley, Scott, Lynn, and Steven Livingston comprise the Family Management Team.

to the values of this enduring family enterprise.

In October 1938, Horst Rolf Liebenstein, brought his heritage, ingenuity, and entrepreneurial spirit to Ellis Island, but left everything else behind in Germany. He was alone in a new world and from that point forward he was known as Harry Livingston. His family life was forever changed. He left many loved ones and traditions behind, but he began a new legacy that continues today with the success of Horst Engineering.

Horst Engineering has evolved to keep pace with the changing manufacturing economy. Harry Livingston started the business in Hartford, Connecticut, with a focus on engineering services, and tool and die work. The company designed and manufactured custom tools, parts, machines, and solutions for customers in the typewriter, firearms, hardware,

**Year founded:** 1946

**Location:** East Hartford

**Employees:** 77

**Product or Service:**  
Manufacturer

**Web site:**  
[www.horstengineering.com](http://www.horstengineering.com)

help guide the company's future growth. He has spearheaded the progressive family business model that has inspired many other business-owning families to look at their succession plans differently. Horst Engineering's management team supports a group of talented employees who are committed to manufacturing excellence.

In 2006, Horst Engineering de Mexico was launched in Sonora, Mexico. The maquiladora, located in the city of Guaymas, produces aerospace and industrial components for customers in Mexico, the United States and Europe. The strong manufacturing heritage in Connecticut is mirrored by a similar heritage in Sonora.

Horst Engineering and the Livingston family have supported many community, social and environmental organizations. Thread Rolling Inc. is a member of 1% for the Planet. The companies are known for their environmental stewardship which includes support for not-for-profit organizations in the outdoor education, recreation, and conservation areas. The Appalachian Mountain Club, Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Green Mountain Club, Riverfront Recapture, and the Sonoran Institute have all benefited from the company's support.



*Horst Liebenstein (Harry Livingston) immigrated via Ellis Island in October 1938.*



*Horst Engineering manufactures precision machined components for high-technology industries.*

In 2008, following the acquisition of Crystal Precision, an Acton, MA based firm; the company renovated its 41 Cedar St. plant in East Hartford to make room for a new research and development cell. The Horst Medical business unit was launched with a focus on surgical instruments, and orthopaedic and dental implants. A 39kW solar PV electric power system with 128 rooftop panels provides power for 60 percent of the building's electricity needs.

Many people know of Horst Engineering because of the brightly colored orange and black jerseys worn by members of the company sponsored cycling team. Since 1997, Team Horst Sports has excelled in amateur endurance sports, garnering tremendous results. Current and alumni members of the team have competed all over the globe in road cycling, mountain biking, cyclo-cross, trail running, road running, triathlon, adventure racing and other challenging disciplines.

Horst Engineering's 2020 plan is geared toward more growth. The company has accelerated its lean enterprise journey and remains steadfast in its drive to retain a manufacturing skill base in Connecticut. Lean enterprise is a customer centric growth strategy that helps organizations create new capacities and skills by eliminating waste while maintaining respect for people. Tradition and innovation are balanced at Horst Engineering as seasoned employees mentor the new generation of workers. Company leadership often refers back to the days when much of its business was derived from the typewriter manufacturing industry. The point is that the company will continue to evolve, just as it has done for more than 65 years.



*Team Horst Sports is one of many community and non-profit organizations that the company supports.*