

Member Profile

Member Profile: Mechanical Rubber Products

Year founded: 1941

Location: Warwick, NY

Products and services: Custom contract manufacturer of high quality rubber, plastics, and metal products.

Website: www.mechanicalrubber.com

Mechanical Rubber Products (MRP) has been providing solutions to the needs of a variety of industries for over seventy years.

They manufacture high quality, custom rubber, plastics and metals products using cutting edge technology. Their innovation and dedication to quality ensure the highest standards are met with each order. “Mechanical Rubber is a solutions –based company,” explained Cedric Glasper, President and CEO of Mechanical Rubber Products. It is Glasper’s can-do attitude that has taken the company from bankruptcy when he acquired it to the vibrant company it is today.

Mechanical Rubber Products was founded by Stanley Kogut in 1941 when he decided to quit

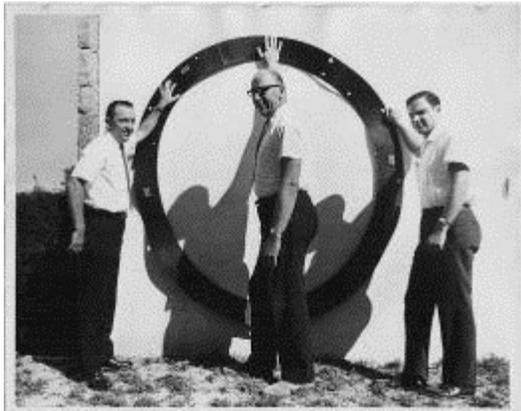
his job at Continental Rubber Company and open his own company in a rented garage in the Bronx. Not long after World War II began and the company took off. By 1948 the company had outgrown the original facilities and relocated to a larger building in Warwick, NY.

Over the years Mechanical Rubber Products has had its ups and downs. Highlights include supplying the high pressure window gasket for the Lunar Expedition Module in 1969, being acquired by Kendavis Industries of Fort Worth, Texas in 1978 and then by Carey Industries of New York in the late 1980s. This was a difficult time for the company, which was bankrupt by the time the current owner Cedric Glasper acquired it in 1995. Glasper was able to turn things around and Mechanical Rubber Products then acquired Minisink Rubber in 2000.

President and CEO Glasper capitalized on one of MRP’s strengths, the people who work there. “People are the biggest asset,” he said. “Constant improvement of people is critical to



One of Mechanical Rubber Products lab technicians at work.



Mechanical Rubber produced a high pressure window gasket for the Lunar Expedition Module in the 1960s.

success.” When Glasper took over the bankrupt company, he had to first layoff the staff and then rehire them back again as part of the acquisition agreement. Only a small percentage of the employees returned to be rehired,

which provided a great deal of insight to how the company had been run. Glasper recognized that the people are the strength of the company and has refined his hiring process to ensure the right people are put in the right positions to create a strong team.

These dedicated employees ensure Mechanical Rubber Products commitment to quality. Aviation and Aerospace are the largest industry served by MRP with customers such as Bombardier, Learjet, and Gulfstream. There isn’t a product line; according to Glasper, “we’re not limited. We don’t restrict what we can do. If it’s something we’ve never done before, we seek to find a solution that will satisfy the customer’s requirements.” The primary material manufactured by MRP is rubber but the company is expanding more and more to include polymers as well as aluminum and other metals.

The manufacturing processes have been refined over time. “What’s old is new,” commented Glasper. “The science is the same, but the art of producing products is just that, an art. It’s learned over time, not plug and play.” Mechanical Rubber’s products are specialty manufactured to fit into a customer’s specific niche. That requires being creative and consistently seeking to ensure quality and innovation in all aspects of production. The company is AS9100 Rev. C / ISO9001:2008 certified and US Government Spec. MIL-I-45208 compliant. Rubber is used in a wide variety of applications and MRP is here to provide solutions.

Mechanical Rubber Products has been a member of the Council of Industry since 1999. The Council has provided a good source of networking and has been a way for Glasper and the company to share experiences with others in the industry.