Ulbrich Stainless Steels & Special Metals, Inc.
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VITAL STATISTICS

Year Founded: 1924
Number of Employees: 700
Number of Facilities: 12 in 5 countries – Connecticut, South Carolina, Illinois, California, Oregon, Canada, Mexico, China, Austria

WHO WE ARE

Ulbrich Stainless Steels & Special Metals, Inc., is a family owned and operated global precision re-roller and distributor of stainless steel strip, special metals strip, foil, shaped wire, fine wire, sheet, plate, bar and PV ribbon products. A leader in the field of distributing stainless and other specialty metals such as titanium and nickel and cobalt alloys, Ulbrich’s products are known worldwide for their excellent reliability and superior performance in critical applications. Headquartered in North Haven, Connecticut, Ulbrich has 12 strategically located sites in five countries across North America and Europe. Ulbrich continually supplies their customers with metals that are engineered to enhance and improve a wide variety of processes. The company’s products are used across many industries including: aerospace, oil and gas, automotive, power generation, and various sectors within the medical industry. Ulbrich is known for solving their customer’s problems and creating metal solutions for their individualized needs.

THE ULBRICH STORY

What is now Ulbrich Stainless Steels & Special Metals, Inc., started in 1924 when Fred Ulbrich, Sr., started a scrap metal reselling business at One Dudley Ave. in Wallingford, CT. Fred, Sr., soon began manufacturing cutlery, and during World War II was awarded the contract to supply stainless steel knives for the U.S. Army’s mess kits. This contract allowed the company to purchase its first rolling mill, which was instrumental in transforming Ulbrich from a utensils-based manufacturer to a custom stainless steel strip operation in the post-World War II years.

Soon after World War II, the growth of the jet aircraft industry created a demand for high-performance metals. After a significant investment in quality control systems and modern manufacturing equipment, Ulbrich went on to supply metal for such varied aerospace applications as the B-1 Bomber, several jet fighters and the Space Shuttle. As its customers began expanding their horizons, Ulbrich added other specialty alloys such as nickel and nickel alloys, cobalt alloys, and titanium and titanium alloys.

As customers began to respond to Ulbrich’s quality and versatility in the 1960s, it was apparent that the Biggest Little Mill in the Country needed a national distribution network. Ulbrich of Illinois, located in Alsip, was Ulbrich’s first stainless steel strip service center. It was followed by Ulbrich of Georgia and Ulbrich of California and allowed Ulbrich to better service regional markets. During this time, Fred Sr.’s sons Fred Ulbrich, Jr., and Richard Ulbrich took control of the business.

As the service centers were starting up and beginning to thrive, the original Wallingford plant, now renamed Ulbrich Specialty Strip Mill (USSM), was adding new rolling mills and annealing furnaces to keep pace with both technology and its customers’ demands. As customers began to demand narrower and narrower widths for their precision strip orders, Ulbrich developed a new product line, and the Ulbrich Shaped Wire division, located in North Haven, CT, was born.