

Promotions Set Course for More Growth

Mike Knappek and Mark Bernicky Receive Promotions

Waukegan, Ill. Yaskawa America Inc. recently named Mike Knappek as president and chief operating officer. The company also promoted Mark Bernicky to vice president of drives.

The company is headquartered in Waukegan, Ill., with manufacturing facilities in Oak Creek, Wis., Buffalo Grove, Ill., and Plain City, Ohio.

The moves are designed to place long-time Yaskawa leaders in a position to build on the growth established by outgoing President and Chief Operating Officer Jody Kurtzhals.

“Jody was instrumental in Yaskawa’s tremendous advances in technology and quality control. Under his leadership, our manufacturing infrastructure, product technology and quality processes improved dramatically,” Knappek said.

“As our 100th anniversary approaches in 2015, we’ve put together a growth-focused management team that will build on what Jody helped us achieve. We’ve put people in place throughout our leadership that will employ this company’s values to meet the increasing demands of our customers and the market.”

Knappek began his career with Magnetek in 1986. After Yaskawa acquired the drives division from Magnetek, he grew to take on leadership roles in several product areas. He later became responsible for the drives business in North America and South America. Under his direction, Yaskawa has increased market share every year, including a record-setting year in 2010.

Bernicky has worked for the company for 18 years, including the last 10 as director of Domestic Drives Sales. Prior to the sales position, he has served as Channel Manager and in various technical roles with Magnetek. Before coming to Yaskawa, he was Engineering Manager for an Automation Systems Integrator. Mark brings 30 years of Factory Automation experience to his new position.

About Yaskawa

The Drives & Motion Division of Yaskawa America, Inc. manufactures industrial automation equipment. Its products include industrial AC drives, commercial HVAC drives, spindle drives and motors, servo amplifiers, servo motors, machine controllers, and low-voltage industrial control switches. Yaskawa America’s Motoman Robotics Division makes industrial robots that can weld, assemble, cut, and handle goods for manufacturers.

For more information on the company or products, please contact Dennis Fitzgerald or visit yaskawa.com.

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