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HISTORY OF THE MARTHENS COMPANY

By utilizing the vision of our founder, Ray Marthens, Marco has relied on sound management and dedicated associates to consistently exceed our customer's expectations. Over the last half century, our product line has evolved, but our business conduct will remain the same: operating with absolute integrity and delivering legendary service to our customers. Today, we make investments in our future to preserve the legacy we inherited.

The Marthens Company (Marco) was founded in 1944 by Ray Marthens and started by selling industrial sands to the foundry industry. The business continued to promote additional product lines such as: bentonite clay, iron oxide, steel shot, refractories and other foundry related products. It took Ray approximately three years to develop sufficient enough income to support himself and his family from this venture. Ray's tireless dedication was illustrated by selling foundry supplies by day, working at a foundry by night and invoicing customers on the weekend.

On January 3rd, 2004, we Celebrated our 60th Anniversary.

Ray Marthens was the driving force in Marco's growth for the next twenty years. In 1964, Bill Marthens, his son, joined the organization. His first position was working in the warehouse for approximately 12 months. Bill soon developed an interest in selling and installing refractories in boilers. Shortly thereafter, a sales territory in the foundry supply division opened and he moved into outside sales.

The Company has continued to grow as sales associates and facilities were added. Foundry abrasives (shot and grit) continue to be an important part of Marco's product offering. Furthermore, Marco has expanded into selling additional abrasives, blasting, painting and safety supplies, in the North American market. Our ability to adapt to pressures of the economy and competition has been extraordinary.

In 1993, Mike Marthens joined the company and now third generation leadership is well in place.

Marco's Board of Directors has appointed the following Officers:

William R. Marthens, *Chief Executive Officer*
Michael W. Marthens, *President*
Timothy J. McKinnon, *Vice President of Operations*
Jim Claassen, *Vice President of Sales & Marketing*
Cheryl A. Lester, *Vice President & Chief Financial Officer*
John Engstrom, *Treasurer*

Today, Marco is a well organized company led by coaches and teams. We are well positioned for continued growth. We enjoy boundless, progressive thinking and a spirit of continual improvement, which leads all associates toward a sound, robust and profitable future.

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