CPI Aero Celebrates 40 Years of Business
From small, private consulting firm to multi-million dollar, publicly traded corporation

January 2020 marked the start of a new decade and, for CPI Aero, it also marked the celebration of its 40th year in business. What began as a small, private technical consulting office is now a multi-million dollar, publicly traded corporation that employs hundreds of employees.

In 1980 Arthur August and Ted Martinez, two longtime Grumman engineers and colleagues, started Composite Products International and set out to provide technical expertise for a wide variety of products in the aerospace industry. After several years in business, August developed a new perspective and decided the company would also begin to produce aerospace spare parts. By the mid-1980s CPI had found a niche that would continue to propel the business forward—the strategy was to aim for parts contracts too small for the major prime contractors to make the effort and too large for local machine shops to manage and handle. His vision of a “mini-prime” helped pave the way for CPI Aero’s growth and success for the next 40 years.

Each decade since CPI’s inception has seen steady to profound growth and capacity in both personnel and business. Even as the aerospace industry on Long Island suffered through mergers and, ultimately, major plant closings, CPI Aero continued to prosper and earned the reputation as a company that provided manufacturing expertise and superior product. In 1992 CPI Aero became a publicly traded company on the Nasdaq and by 2000, its shares were moved to the AMEX, now part of NYSE.

Today, CPI Aero is headquartered in a 170,000 square foot facility, housing nearly 300 employees and working with suppliers and partners all over the world. The company’s business model has expanded to include aerosystems, kitting and supply chain management, welding and tube bending, and electronics while continuing to provide personalized program management and engineering expertise for major commercial aerospace and national security Tier 1 manufacturers. “While much has changed over the past 40 years in the aerospace and defense industry, CPI Aero has remained consistent in delivering exceptional program execution, superior product quality and the ability to provide value to our customers,” said company president and CEO Doug McCrosson. “We look ahead with a near-record backlog, a growing need for our capabilities, and the ongoing commitment of our talented employees to deliver growth and value creation for the long-term.”

To kick off CPI Aero’s 40th anniversary, members of the company’s board of directors and executive management along with their guests were invited to the NYSE floor on January 29th to ring the closing bell.

Message from Douglas McCrosson, President and CEO

Reflecting on CPI Aero’s 40 Years

Amazing things can happen in 40 years.

In 1980 Long Island was still a hub of military and aerospace manufacturing, with many of the major Tier 1 manufacturers building right here in our backyard. That year, our founders started a small technical consulting firm for the aerospace industry. Within a couple of years aerospace manufacturing was added to its capabilities.

As the landscape of Long Island and military and defense spending gradually changed, we kept our focus on seeking opportunities that large manufacturers would find too small to manage efficiently and small machine shops would find too large and complex to complete. We continued to provide personalized customer service and outstanding product, which earned us a strong reputation as a premier supplier. And so we continued to grow and prosper.

I have been a part of this journey with CPI Aero for the past 15 years. And while a lot has changed here during my tenure, our mission and fundamental core of the company is the same as it was in 1980—"to exceed the expectations of our customers by manufacturing the highest quality products while providing a low risk, collaborative and completely satisfying customer experience.”

This year we celebrate CPI Aero’s 40 years of business. We are able to celebrate this milestone with and because of you—our valued employees, suppliers, customers, and partners. And as we look back at our humble beginnings and the accomplishments we have made in that time, we also look with eager anticipation to the future and for the incredible opportunities in store for all of us.

Here’s to 40 years and to 40 more!
Janet Cooper Joins CPI Aero Board of Directors
Respected Financial Executive Provides Expertise in Finance and Accounting

The Board of Directors unanimously approved Janet K. Cooper as its newest member on April 16, 2019. The addition of Ms. Cooper to the board further advances CPI Aero’s commitment to providing improved, sound financial and business direction for the company. Ms. Cooper brings decades of extensive financial and accounting experience to the board as a senior executive and board member for various complex technology and manufacturing organizations. She has considerable expertise in all aspects of finance including capital markets, audit, tax, accounting, treasury, and risk management. In addition to Ms. Cooper’s seat on CPI’s board, Ms. Cooper also currently serves on several other company boards as a Director and/or committee chair. Ms. Cooper was previously Senior Vice President and Treasurer at Qwest Communications International, Inc.

According to Terry Stinson, CPI Aero’s Board Chair, Ms. Cooper is an outstanding and exceptionally qualified candidate for the board. “As a retired senior financial executive at a Fortune® 500 telecom company and a current board member for multi-billion-dollar industrial companies, Janet’s experience will be an invaluable asset as we execute on our long-term growth strategy,” said Mr. Stinson. Ms. Cooper serves as the board’s Audit Committee Chair.

Ms. Cooper earned a Bachelor’s Degree and a Master’s Degree from the University of Illinois and received an MBA, focusing on Finance and International Business, from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Douglas McCrosson Appointed to Aerospace Industries Association Board of Governors

CPI Aero President and CEO Douglas McCrosson was appointed to the Aerospace Industries Association’s (AIA’s) Board of Governors through the end of 2020. The AIA is an organization whose membership consists of executives and representatives of leading aerospace and defense industry companies and is focused on its work as a voice and advocate for the industry.

“I am honored to serve on the Board of Governors and look forward to supporting the entire AIA team in advocating for our industry,” stated Mr. McCrosson. “CPI Aero is excited to have a seat on the Board alongside the most prominent companies in our industry to work on issues vital to the continued success of AIA members.”

The AIA Board of Governors meets twice a year to discuss and decide matters related to the aerospace and defense industry to order to provide insight, policy, and recommendations to the government on critical issues and cultivate a unified perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing these industries.

CPI Aero IPT for NGJ-MB pod wins Aviation Week Program Excellence Award
Second CPI Aero program selected for award

In October, 2019, CPI Aero’s work on the Raytheon Next Generation Jammer Mid-Band (NGJ-MB) program was selected by Aviation Week for a 2019 Program Excellence award in the Supply Chain System Design category. This is the second time a CPI Aero program team was selected as a winner. The award was given based on CPI Aero’s plan for and execution of the program’s management of suppliers for the NGJ-MB pod. The pod features a bold design and high levels of manufacturing precision and agility from both CPI Aero and Raytheon. Early on, Raytheon tapped CPI to provide the pod, leading to a tightly integrated effort in which CPI joined in design reviews to provide manufacturing insight into the design cycle rather than the traditional multi-tiered design review. CPI was able to prioritize higher lead-time parts ahead of less complex parts; an important factor, given the high number of high-precision detail parts sourced and managed by CPI Aero. To further reduce time for this “urgent-need” effort for the Pentagon, CPI engaged its suppliers directly with pre-released drawings and a contractual vehicle whereby detail drawings were circulated with predetermined boundaries that allowed CPI Aero’s supply chain to begin sourcing, manufacturing, planning, and limited production ahead of final documents. Program Managers Derick Martin and Christian Butler received the award on behalf of the company, with CEO and President Doug McCrosson and Vice President of Programs Nazz Palmerini also in attendance.
Welding Metallurgy Inc (WMI) Subsidiary Hitting Its Stride

The complete integration of Welding Metallurgy Inc (WMI) within CPI Aero’s headquarters in Edgewood, NY is complete. 2019 was a busy year of transition for WMI. The company and its nearly 60 employees were relocated within CPI Aero’s headquarters. And by the end of 2019 the IT and business management processes were completely integrated with CPI Aero’s existing systems. No small feat indeed!

The acquisition of WMI adds capabilities to CPI Aero’s aerostructures and aerostructures businesses and broadens the content footprint on shared defense programs like the Black Hawk and E-2D. WMI broadens CPI Aero’s technical capabilities in the areas of specialty welding and large diameter tube bending and diversifies the company’s aerostructures business to include electronics integration and wire harness solutions, thereby enhancing its ability to expand its content share of defense programs and adding to its growing bid pipeline of larger and more complex programs.

“Team cooperation was key to a successful transition of WMI capabilities across all departments,” commented Barry Fratello, CPI Aero’s Vice President of Administration, who oversaw the IT system transition. “I want to thank the employees for their professionalism, flexibility, and cooperative efforts as we move forward together toward a new era of expanded capabilities and increased opportunities.”

Raytheon Authorizes CPI Aero to Begin Next Phase of NGJ-MB Pod

CPI Aero has begun production of pod structures and air management system components for the System Demonstration and Test Article phase of the Next Generation Jammer Mid-Band program. Completing this phase will play an important role in providing a finished pod ready for testing by the US Navy.

Contract Awarded By USAF for T-38 Mod Kits Valued at $65.7M

The IDIQ contract was awarded to CPI Aero to provide structural modification kits, program management, logistics, and other sustainment services to the USAF in support of the T-38C Pacer Classic III. In February, 2020, the USAF issued a $4.5M purchase order to CPI, increasing the value of funded orders to more than $8 million.

Multi-year Contract Awarded by LMCO for F-16V Aircraft

CPI Aero was awarded the contract in February 2019. The company will manufacture rudder and drag chute canister assemblies, which are installed on the tail section of the F-16V aircraft. Deliveries are expected to begin in mid-2020 through 2024.

WMI Receives $4M Orders for E-2D Welded Assemblies and Tubes

Northrop Grumman Corporation has submitted purchase orders to CPI Aero’s subsidiary WMI to supply welded structure and tube assemblies for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye aircraft. WMI will manufacture more than 140 different items in support of the production of at least 25 aircraft.

CPI Aero Awarded $48M Contract to Re-Wing Boeing A-10 Aircraft

Under the terms of the IDIQ contract from Boeing, CPI Aero will manufacture major structural subassemblies of the A-10’s wing. CPI also received initial purchase orders for the production of 4 shipsets of assemblies and associated start-up costs. This award builds on over 10 years of CPI A-10 support. First delivery is expected to be in late 2020.

WMI Receives Multiple Contracts to Provide Electronic and Welded Assemblies For Several Aircraft and Platforms

- Electrical Relay Boxes for A-10
- Electronic assemblies on SEASPARROW missile launch control system
- Welded assemblies for CH-47 Chinook, UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-53K King Stallion
We Appreciate Our Outstanding Employees

CPI Aero Manufacturing Engineer Thomas DeKenipp Runs NYC Marathon for a Cause
US Army Veteran Runs for Fellow Veterans

CPI Aero was a proud sponsor and supporter of one of its manufacturing engineers, Thomas DeKenipp, when he ran the 2019 TCS New York City Marathon as a member of the Team Mission United team organized by the United Way of Long Island. Tom served in the US Army’s 82nd Airborne Combat Aviation Brigade as a helicopter crew chief and an in-flight mechanic for six years. While enlisted, he took to running and discovered he enjoyed it. Upon active duty retirement, he continued to serve as a civilian employee on the Army base in Afghanistan. When he returned to the States, Tom realized he wanted to find a way to make his military skills useful in the traditional workplace. He enrolled in classes at Vaughn College for a new career path as a mechanical engineer, and soon after, was hired by CPI Aero through the company’s relationship with the college.

Tom’s disciplined nature and enjoyment of running inspired his interest in running the NYC marathon. He says he joined the Team Mission United team to bring awareness to the organization’s support programs and to help other veterans acclimate to their surroundings post-active duty. As he describes, “For many veterans the transition from the military lifestyle back to the civilian lifestyle can be awkward and unsettling. An organization such as the United Way of Long Island that supports veterans as they make that transition is a much needed and valuable resource.”

This year’s New York City marathon is the first marathon for Tom. He is looking forward to running through his old childhood neighborhood in Brooklyn and drawing attention to the importance of supporting veterans. “Veterans don’t ask a lot of other people, they are selfless in that way,” commented Tom. “We don’t like to seem like we need help, but it’s needed. Let’s help fill that void as veterans transition back into civilian life.”

CPI Aero and Vaughn College Are Partners in Educating and Hiring Skilled Employees

For several years, CPI Aero has partnered with Vaughn College to employ skilled manufacturing employees. Vaughn College began to develop courses based on input from Vaughn’s advisory board consisting of representatives from local manufacturers. Rob Isoldi, CPI Aero’s manager of manufacturing operations, is one of the advisory board members and actively participates in providing guidance in course outline and content. “When Vaughn began to put courses together, I told them we needed individuals with a background in metrology,” says Isoldi. “Vaughn is looking to progress constantly. And they listen to what we need. We’ve been able to hire quite a few Vaughn students before they graduate. We are always on the lookout for young talent, and Vaughn does a good job of helping students see there are promising career opportunities right here—whether it’s in the quality department, on the manufacturing floor or as an aircraft mechanic.”

CPI Aero on Social Media

https://www.facebook.com/cpiaero
https://www.twitter.com/cpiaero
Company page: CPI Aerostructures

Our Values

Customer Service Create the best possible buying experience for our customers
Pride In our work, the quality of our products and in our company
Integrity Do the right thing at all times and in all circumstances
Adaptability React efficiently and quickly to succeed in changing situations
Employee Involvement In the decisions that impact how they perform their jobs
Respect For each other, our customers and suppliers
Ownership Hold ourselves accountable for the success of the company