



NORTH STAR NEWS

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Winter/Spring 2018

KEEPING THE WHEELS OF INDUSTRY MOVING

Introducing our news bulletin



Robert Pinelli

I'm pleased to introduce our semi-annual bulletin, North Star News. In this publication, we'll be talking about our team members and the work they do, new equipment we're bringing into our plant, interesting projects we've worked on and our plans to grow the company over the coming years.

My father Anthony Pinelli started North Star Technical in 1986, and established a tradition of quality workmanship and customer service that's carried on to the next

generation. Dad has now passed the operations of the company on to my two brothers – Michael and James – and me. Michael is the plant manager, I'm responsible for the office operations and business development, and James is overseeing the execution of our strategic plan over the next five years. James recently re-joined North Star after spending three years with an outside company. The exciting and challenging work that James is doing at North Star

is detailed in the story below.

North Star provides a range of services to small local companies as well as large national corporations – services that include machining, millwrighting, welding, dynamic balancing and non-destructive testing. You'll learn more about all of this in subsequent issues of North Star News.

We hope you enjoy reading our news bulletin and welcome your comments and enquiries.

Robert Pinelli



SHOP NEWS

New non-destructive testing

In the seven months since North Star began offering non-destructive testing, customers have begun to approach the company for both its magnetic particle testing and liquid penetrant inspections.

Non-destructive testing, also known as non-destructive examination, became a new service offering last summer with the arrival of estimating and technical support employee Andy Szafran, who has been certified to perform the testing since 1993.

Among the recent projects Andy has worked on has been the inspection of 10 cylinder liners for large diesel engines removed from a tugboat. The customer wanted to know whether any of the cast iron liners could be reused. Andy's job was to test the tube-shaped liners to determine if there had been any damage or cracks, and if so, whether they could be easily and inexpensively repaired.

Very small ferromagnetic metal particles in an oil suspension were sprayed on the tubing, and a magnetic field applied with an electromagnetic yoke to visualize any cracks in areas prone to service stress.



James Pinelli

A plan for greater growth

North Star Technical has some ambitious expansion plans, and James Pinelli is taking the reins in helping to turn those plans into reality.

James worked for a brief time at the company after graduating from the Mechanical Engineering Program at Queen's University in 2013, and then spent three years with a company developing solar and wind farms.

"This allowed me to gain some outside experience with a large

organization, learning about managing major construction projects and about corporate procedures," he says.

James came back to North Star last November to oversee the implementation of a five-year strategic plan, which includes an ambitious growth target. Two years ago, North Star purchased a plot of land to the east of its existing shop on Burlington Street to expand its operations. Plans are to begin construction within the next few years. Other initiatives include hiring new skilled trades team members, acquiring new equipment and securing contracts for work in new industries.



Andy Szafran inspects a cylinder liner removed from the engine of a tugboat.



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