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CONSTRUCTION

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With nationwide recognition of its industrial work, Scheck Industries says it is working to expand its HVAC service offerings in Chicago and other markets.



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Scheck's Focus on Service

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By Joanna Miller

Scheck Industries, annually ranked as one of the nation's largest industrial contractors, has expanded into the healthcare and service sectors in the Chicago market, and is poised to extend these divisions locally and nationwide. The family owned business has been in operation since 1984. Day-to-day operations are led by founder and President Richard Scheck.

Scheck's three sons – Executive Vice President Rick Scheck, Vice President of Business Development Michael Scheck, and Vice President Chris Scheck – all play key roles in the continued growth of the company.

Healthcare and commercial HVAC service account for approximately 10 percent of the company's annual sales, which average \$130 million.

"We are working in several hospitals and outpatient facilities around Chicago, including South Suburban Hospital on the *New Same Day Surgery* project," Project Executive Brian Ortiz says. "We've been able to put together one of the largest teams of medical gas-certified installers and project managers in Chicago."

"The training our people receive not only certifies them in medical gas installation – it focuses on the intricacies of performing construction work in an occupied hospital."

The project involves the renovation of the Hazelcrest, Ill., hospital's intensive care facility. The hospital is owned by Advocate Health Care, and the general contractor is Leopardo Construction.

Healthcare Work

Scheck recently completed work on a new imaging center in Wilmette, Ill., for Advocate Health Care. The center features MRI, X-ray, CT scan, mammography, DEXA scan and ultrasound equipment.

The facility also includes ambient features, such as fiber-optic living walls, wall-and-ceiling theater projections and advanced digital surround sound.

The company provided complete mechanical demolition, installation of rooftop HVAC

Scheck Industries

www.goscheck.com

2006 sales: \$130 million

Headquarters: Countryside, Ill.

Employees: 3,000

Services: Construction/HVAC

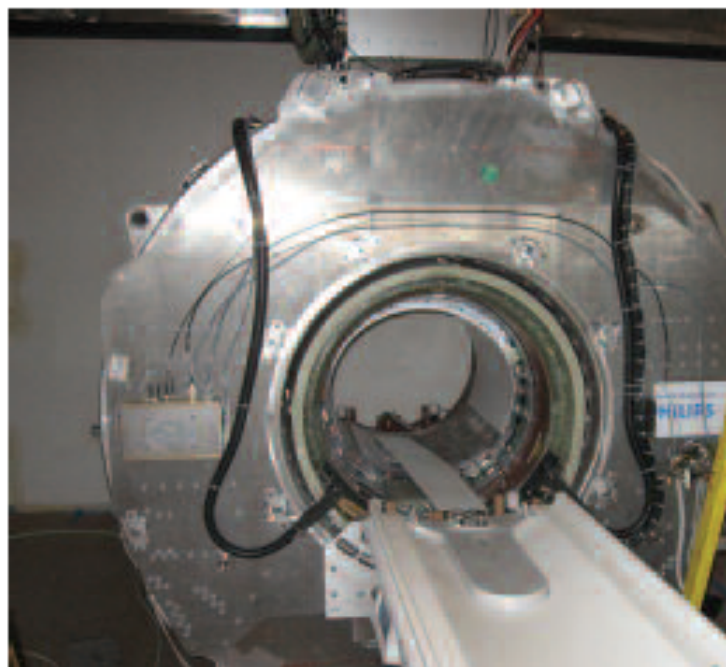
Brian Ortiz, project executive:

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Scheck recently completed work for Wilmette, Ill.-based Advocate Health Care, which features MRI, X-ray, CT scan and other equipment.

units, electric variable air volume boxes, MRI chiller, finned tube radiation, unit heaters, humidifiers and new duct work. "This first-of-its-kind facility will serve as a model for similar imaging centers throughout the world," the company says.

The company also recently finished a project at St. Francis Hospital and Health Center in Blue Island, Ill. The 410-bed facility is owned and operated by SSM Health Care, one of the nation's largest Catholic healthcare systems. St. Francis was founded in 1905 by the Sisters of St. Mary. Today, it is an acute-care hospital and provides primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care.

Scheck completed a major renovation to the electrophysiology lab and radiology holding areas of the hospital. It installed new heating, cooling and medical gas piping, as well as a new air-handling unit in a mechanical room with limited access.

"The new unit was shipped in several pieces, and reassembled in place," states Project Executive Brian Harris.

"Despite an aggressive four-month schedule, and the challenges of working in an occupied hospital, the Scheck team received rave reviews for the performance from construction manager M.A. Mortenson Co. and hospital facilities personnel," he adds.

Big and Small

Scheck's commercial service division

allows the company to take on projects of all sizes.

"With our service division, Scheck can properly manage a \$1,000 job, in addition to the \$100 million projects our construction group can handle," Ortiz says. "No job is too big or too small."

Its commercial customers include property management firms that own and operate commercial retail centers and offices throughout northern Illinois.

Scheck is now performing service work for a variety of food industry clients, including Nestlé Foods, Johnsonville Sausage and VICOM, which produces pies for Bakers Square restaurants throughout the Midwest.

"The pies are baked the day before and shipped out overnight," he notes. "The week of Thanksgiving, they shipped 1 million pies."

In the last year, the company has begun to work with several high-end restaurants and retailers in Chicago.

Some of Chicago's finest restaurants, including Rosebud, Brasserie and Hugo Boss Michigan Avenue, have benefited from Scheck's HVAC capabilities, Ortiz says.

Scheck also works with institutional customers. It employs 15 HVAC service technicians in the Chicago area who service roughly 400 sites for Chicago Public Schools. Service Manager Ron Winteroom's team is quickly growing, and continues to add technicians.

Headquartered in Countryside, the

company operates regional offices in Battle Creek, Mich.; Egan, Minn.; Kaukauna, Wis.; Carlyle, Ill.; and Turnersville, N.J.

Nationally, Ortiz says, Scheck is known as a heavy industrial contractor for pipe installation, pipe fabrication, boiler installation and repair, instrumentation and process module fabrication.

"A lot of the big industrial contractors aren't set up to also handle service and commercial work," he says. "We pride ourselves on being a true, full-service mechanical contractor."

Community Service

In August, Scheck Industries will sponsor the 9th annual Betty Scheck Memorial Walk for Cancer. Last year's event was highlighted by the achievement of raising more than \$1 million over the previous eight years, Ortiz notes.

"This is an incredible accomplishment for all of those involved," co-chair Rick Scheck says. It's an astounding amount of money for a small village.

"We are grateful to our participants and corporate sponsors for their generosity," he adds. "Seeing more and more survivors each year at the event is what makes a difference to all of us in the Scheck family, particularly as the event is named for my mom."

"Survival rates and programs that benefit those in need have been impacted by the generosity of many people." ■