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Another Tornado Makes News at Tacony Corporation



Just last September, the topic of conversation around here was the tornado that hit our manufacturing plant in St. James, MO and the outstanding job our associates did in getting everything up and running again, losing just one day of production.

Now, in February, the "t word" is popping up in conversations again, but this time it's good news. [Tornado Industries](#), a full line manufacturer, importer, and distributor of commercial floor machines has joined the Tacony family. Tornado, based in northwestern Chicago, near O'Hare Airport, has been in business since 1927.

The Tacony Corporation commercial floor care business now includes four major players: [Tornado](#), [Powr-Flite](#), [CFR](#), and [Truvox](#). We will now have research, engineering, sourcing and assembly facilities in Fenton, Fort Worth, Chicago, St. James, Southampton, England, and Shanghai, China. The consolidation of four major names in commercial floor care under a single American ownership is unprecedented and very exciting.

Tornado Industries is dedicated to delivering "Best in Class" commercial and industrial cleaning equipment and after-sale service that meets and exceeds the expectations of their customers. In the industrial cleaning business for over 80 years, Tornado has a strong entrepreneurial history of partnering with in-house cleaners, contractors and facility managers to provide cleaning solutions that deliver innovation, reliability and competitive pricing.

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OUR MISSION:

To profitably grow our leadership position in the industries we serve, creating success for our customers, our associates, and all others that depend on us.

WE STRIVE TO:

EXCEED the needs of our consumers, deliver high QUALITY products and services to our customers,

Always find a BETTER way,

and build long-lasting RELATIONSHIPS that are based on trust and feel like FAMILY.

Tornado is also committed to a clean environment. They proudly support the standards and criteria established by the U.S. Green Building Council and The Carpet and Rug Institute's (CRI) Green Label Certification program. They have a great web site that you can see by clicking [here](#).

Synergy is the key. As Ken Tacony pointed out to our Fenton associates in announcing the acquisition, the synergies between Tacony Corporation and Tornado Industries will result in lower costs, improved distribution, and lower prices and even better service for all of our dealers, not just in commercial floor care, but across all of our product lines and divisions. As our mission statement (shown at the left) says, our goal is to "create success for our customers, our associates, and all others that depend on us."

All of us at Tacony are excited by this new acquisition and look forward to working with our sixty new team members.

You can read a copy of the official press release [here](#).

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Posted by Blog Master on February 07, 2007 at 02:08 PM in [Tacony Corporation News](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)

More Positive PR for Your Favorite Manufacturer

Our local daily paper, the St. Louis Post Dispatch, had a [nice article](#) today about our St. James manufacturing plant. The writer mentions our [one millionth vacuum](#) milestone, [our recent acquisition](#) of Truvox International, and our planned \$3.2 million St. James expansion.

While the article is primarily focused on our vacuum cleaner business, the writer's comment that "a search of mass merchants such as Wal-Mart and Target stores will turn up no Tacony products..." holds true for all of our protected lines.

[Small Business and Self-Employed One-Stop Resource](#)

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You can read the entire article [here](#).

Posted by Blog Master on January 05, 2007 at 04:36 PM in [Tacony Corporation News](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)

Tacony Acquires Truvox International, Ltd.



[Truvox International Ltd](#) is now a part of Tacony Corporation. Final paperwork was executed on Tuesday, December 19. Truvox will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tacony, effective January 1,

2007.

Founded in England in the 1930's, Truvox was originally a manufacturer of sound reproduction equipment, including one of the earliest portable reel-to-reel tape recorders.

In the early 1960's, the company began producing floor cleaning machines and is now a world leader in the design and production of new, effective floor care equipment. The Southampton factory employs a staff of sixty and ships equipment to over thirty countries worldwide. Much like Tacony Corporation, Truvox has been a privately held, family-owned business since its inception.

The marriage of Tacony and Truvox will allow both companies to offer an expanded line of products to their customers and to enjoy cost savings based on the larger customer base.

On Wednesday morning, Tacony executives including CEO Ken Tacony and President Bill Hinderer met with the Truvox team for an official introduction. Each associate was presented with a St. Louis Cardinals World Series Championship baseball cap and a "Welcome to Tacony" banner that had been signed by associates at our Fenton, MO corporate centre.

According to Ken Tacony, "Having Truvox join Tacony not only adds 57 talented associates to our company, it brings us hundreds of new customers throughout the United Kingdom and in over 30 countries throughout the world.

"This is an important step in building a strong international commercial floor care business, taking advantage of our

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combined engineering, manufacturing and sourcing capabilities in Ft.Worth, Fenton, St. James, Suzhou, and now Southampton.”

Technorati Tags: [Tacony Corporation](#), [Truvox](#), [floor care](#)

Posted by Blog Master on December 21, 2006 at 04:03 PM in [Tacony Corporation News](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)

Tacony News



Tacony Celebrates One Millionth Vacuum Cleaner

In 1997, Tacony Corporation relocated the production of its upright vacuum cleaners from Taiwan to St. James, Missouri. While most other vacuum manufacturers were moving their factories overseas from the US to cut costs, Tacony went against this trend. Nine years and three expansions later, on October 25, 2006, Tacony Corporation celebrated the manufacturing of its millionth vacuum from its St. James manufacturing plant.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development has an article about our St. James manufacturing plant in it's current newsletter, "[Missouri Focus](#)". On October 25, at a celebration



honoring the plant's achievement of producing 1,000,000 vacuums, Ken Tacony and Plant Manager Jim Flemming were presented with a proclamation from Missouri Governor Matt Blunt and with the 2006 Missouri Industry Award from the Associate Industries of Missouri.

Congratulations to Ken and Jim and the 108 Missouri citizens who work hard every day building the finest vacuums in the world for their achievements and for the well-deserved recognition.

You can see the current issue of [Missouri Focus here](#), or read the [complete story here](#).



U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson holds the 1,000,000th vacuum manufactured in St. James as Ken Tacony looks on.



Missouri Representative Bob May (right) presents the proclamation from Governor Blunt to Plant Manager, Jim Fleming.

Technorati Tags: [Associated Industries of Missouri](#), [Tacony Corporation](#), [Tacony Manufacturing](#)

Posted by Blog Master on December 08, 2006 at 01:57 PM in [Tacony Corporation News](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)

You Can't Keep a Good Factory Down



Missouri weather can be very unpredictable. If you don't believe it, ask Major League Baseball. On Friday afternoon, September 22, at about 3:20 in the afternoon, a tornado touched down in

St. James, MO. Tacony Manufacturing was right in its path. It was one month, to the day, since the one millionth vacuum cleaner had rolled off the production line. (See "[That's a Lot of Vacuum Cleaners](#)" for more on the St. James plant.)

Thankfully, the plant works on a schedule of four ten hour days, Monday through Thursday so the number of people working that afternoon was small and no one was injured. The building wasn't so fortunate. When the storm had passed, those who were working that day found a 30' X 70' hole in the roof. Several doors had been blown out. Water was pouring in from the still-falling rain and from the plumbing for the sprinkler system, which ruptured when the roof blew off. There was a 35' X 16' hole in one wall.



The sprinklers were quickly turned off and most of the raw materials and material handling equipment was saved. Employees living nearby soon arrived to help, dodging tree limbs, power lines and other assorted debris. By early evening, a recovery plan was in place and materials had been ordered.

To make a long story short, in spite of the severe damage, the factory was up and running Tuesday morning, the 26th. **We missed one day of production.**

Tacony Manufacturing works on a lean production system, meaning that we don't keep a lot of finished product on hand. Merchandise is produced as it's needed to supply our customers. Had we been shut down for any length of time, it would have been a big problem for a lot of dealers. The quick work of Jim Fleming, our plant manager, and all of our associates in St. James not only ensured that our business would continue with little interruption, it also ensured that our dealers' business would not be disrupted.

We were very fortunate, especially that no one was hurt. It just shows that you can be celebrating a milestone one day and repairing major damage the next. **If you haven't reviewed your own disaster plan recently, now would be a good time to do it.**

Jim has prepared a more complete report of the events of that weekend and you can read it [here](#). Click on any of the

small pictures below to see them in larger size.



[Technorati Tags: disaster, preparation, recovery, tacony manufacturing,](#)

[tornado](#)

Posted by Blog Master on October 26, 2006 at 03:45 PM in [Tacony Corporation News](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)

That's a LOT of Vacuum Cleaners



In 1998, Tacony Corporation made the decision to move production of our very successful line of upright vacuum cleaners from the Far East to a factory in the United States. Our senior management believed (and they were right!) that we could produce a better product, faster and at less cost, right here in Missouri. With many other companies were moving their manufacturing out of this country, it was a bold move.

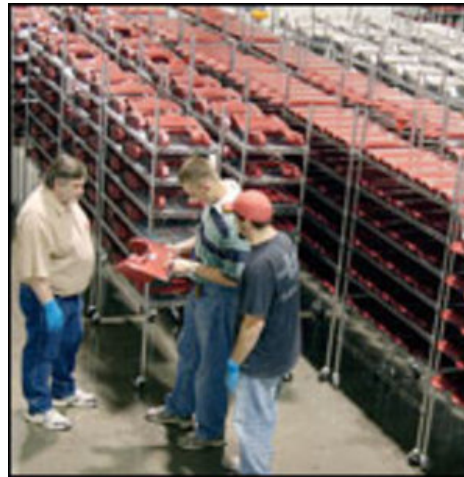
In the eight years since we built that first vacuum cleaner in [St. James](#), in the heart of the [Missouri Ozarks](#), along historic [US Route 66](#), our vacuum cleaner business has prospered. Our vacs are considered to be among the finest in the world.

Yesterday morning, August 22, at 8:15

am, the ONE MILLIONTH VACUUM CLEANER came off the line. That's 1,000,000! Six zeroes and two commas. A whole lot of vacs.

Assuming the average vacuum cleaner is about 45" tall, one million units, laid end-to-end would reach from St. James, MO to San Antonio, TX, or Colorado Springs, CO. They could form a line all the way from our factory in St. James to Thunder Bay, Ontario or to the Atlantic Ocean, or well out into the Gulf of Mexico. No matter how you slice it, it's a lot of vacs.

All of us at Tacony Corporation are extremely proud of Tacony Manufacturing. Our Award Winning, ISO certified manufacturing team produces consistently high quality products. Their excellent



manufacturing processes make it possible to maintain their high quality standards and allow our dealers to compete successfully with any vacuum on the market, regardless of where it's manufactured.

Congratulations to Jim Fleming and his St. James team on this milestone.

[Technorati Tags: Missouri, St James, Tacony, made in the USA, vacuum cleaners](#)

Posted by Blog Master on August 23, 2006 at 11:55 AM in [Tacony Corporation News](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)

Shameless Self-Promotion

Link: [Can Tacony Vacuum Leave Miele in the Dust?](#).



I know this blog is about general business issues for all types of retailers, but I couldn't resist posting a link to this [Business Week Online](#) article.

Congratulations to our Vacuum Cleaner team for the excellent job of keeping our dealers competitive!

Posted by Blog Master on April 28, 2006 at 03:05 PM in [Tacony Corporation News](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)

MINE Your Own Business?

"Don't you mean MIND your own business?"

Nope. MINE your own business. Your business, our business, every business is like a diamond mine. You know the precious gems are in there somewhere, but sometimes you have to move a ton of dirt to find them. At Tacony Corporation, we believe that our job is to help you find those diamonds.

2006 is our Diamond Anniversary. Over the last sixty years, believe me, we've moved a lot of dirt. But, in the process, we've found thousands of diamonds, our valued business partners; you. Thank you for trusting us to be a part of your business. To learn more about our Diamond Anniversary, [click here.](#)



Posted by Blog Master on April 25, 2006 at 12:37 PM in [Tacony Corporation News](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(2\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)