# 

AN INSIDE LOOK AT BLUE STAR POWER SYSTEMS, INC.





#### Company Perspective

Hello and welcome to our 17th edition of INSIDE. We are so pleased to bring you a small look inside what is new at Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. We will soon be completing our 20th consecutive year of growth. I am so proud of everyone who has played a role in helping us achieve something so remarkable. As many of you already know, we also announced some very big news in August. DEUTZ Corporation Americas, a subsidiary of DEUTZ AG, purchased our company in its entirety. Additional details about the transaction are provided on the next page.

If life has taught me anything, it's that change is inevitable. This change is both exciting and emotional for me. I believe strongly that DEUTZ is the right partner at the right time and will help further strengthen our business, taking it to even greater heights. I will be staying on with DEUTZ through 2026 to continue leading this great company. I also feel fortunate to remain a part of the amazing group of people that make up the Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. team. Part of the emotional change for me is the announcement that Bruce Prange, my business partner and friend, will be retiring on December 20th. I have said and felt strongly that we didn't become a real company until Bruce joined us in December of 2007. Bruce brought vast product knowledge and such credibility within the Power Gen industry. Without his contributions, we would be nowhere near where we are today as a company. Bruce, I can't thank you enough for what you have done for me personally and for this company.

Our Elite Distributor introduces you to an incredible company, CK Power. The team at CK Power is such a joy to do business with. Thank you, CK Power, for being such an outstanding partner.

We are thankful for all of your partnerships and will continue to work hard for you. I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jdu7

Doug Fahrforth Blue Star Power Systems, Inc.



#### Employee Spotlight

# Bruce Prange, President & Chief Operating Officer



Bruce with his wife Dawn, daughter Brianna, and sons Bryan and Brandon

Bruce's journey in the Power Generation industry has spanned over 40 years. He started his career right out of college in 1984 as a mechanical design drafter for Kato Engineering. Since that time, Bruce has held various technical or managerial roles on his journey to becoming Owner, President, and Chief Operating Officer of Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. Bruce and his incredible leadership have been a driving force behind the growth and success of Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. Always on the move, Bruce embodies the relentless spirit of hard work. December 20th will be Bruce's last day before he heads into retirement. Bruce, we wish you all the best and will do everything we can to carry your legacy forward.

- Q: What has been the most rewarding experience during your time at Blue Star Power Systems, Inc.?
- A: The whole thing. The opportunity to be a major part in the development and growth of this company from the ground up. Watching our team develop their skills and grow personally while taking on the new challenges we faced was incredibly rewarding.
- Q: Tell us an interesting story about your time in the Power Generation industry.
- A: One of the most exciting and notable things I have experienced in this industry was being in the basement of the White House to witness test a generator set.
- Q: What are your plans during retirement?
- A: Enjoying much more free time! Dawn and I will spend more time at our lake home in Northern Minnesota with our kids, grandkids, family and friends. I will also still be around Mankato quite a bit as that will remain home base.

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### Elite Distributor

## **CK**

CK Power, with roots dating back to 1929, is a leading distributor, manufacturer, and parts & service provider for off-highway industrial engines and generator solutions. They are backed by the strength of their larger collective, the CK Power Family of Companies. The success of CK Power is led and supported by generations of dedicated employees and loyal customers.

CK Power has quickly become one of Blue Star Power Systems, Inc.'s largest and fastest growing distributors. "We chose to work with Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. because we needed a manufacturer that could be nimble, and had the expertise to build the solutions the market demands," said Clark Costello, co-CEO of CK Power. "The communication and transparency we've experienced with the team at Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. have been exceptional and stand out as some of the best among our partnerships."

"I greatly respect what CK Power stands for in our business," said Doug Fahrforth, CEO of Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. "Even beyond the amazing team that has been assembled lies a company always willing to do the right thing. Thank you, CK Power, for entrusting us with your business."



CK Power Headquarters, St. Louis, Missouri.

#### DEUTZ Corporation Americas acquires Blue Star Power Systems, Inc.



From left: Spencer McHugh, Head of Corporate Strategy & M&A at DEUTZ Corporation Americas; Doug Fahrforth, Founder & CEO of Blue Star Power Systems, Inc.; Dr. Sebastian C. Schulte, CEO of DEUTZ AG; David Evans, President & CEO of DEUTZ Corporation Americas; Christian Vorspel-Rueter, Executive VP, Operations & Finance at DEUTZ Corporation Americas; and Bruce Prange, Owner, President & COO of Blue Star Power Systems, Inc.

On August 1, 2024, DEUTZ completed the transaction to fully acquire Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. For DEUTZ, the acquisition is an important step from a component manufacturer to a solutions provider. "With the acquisition of Blue Star Power Systems, Inc, we are accelerating the expansion of our activities in the field of decentralized energy supply, which we entered as part of our Dual+ strategy and are broadening the DEUTZ business model," explains DEUTZ CEO Dr. Sebastian C. Schulte. Doug Fahrforth, founder of Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. also welcomes the step: "We are proud of the business we have built together at Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. We look forward to partnering with DEUTZ to take our business to the next level. Building on our vast product offerings and strong industry relationships will provide global expansion and further development of a sustainable product portfolio."

Rest assured that Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. will remain the same company with the same people you know and trust to deliver highly engineered quality products built the way you require them.



#### Newsworthy Notes

In keeping with the winds of change, we thought it appropriate to announce the retirement of one of the most beloved and respected distributor partners in the history of Blue Star Power Systems, Inc, Mid Florida Diesel's very own Joe Antonini. Joe, thank you for being such a positive representative of our company brand, and thank you for promoting the values we hold so dearly. In fact, thank you for being exactly who you are. Enjoy your retirement, and if you get bored, use some of that extra time to sell a few more units!



Two great friends: Scott Johnson, Sales Manager of Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. and Joe Antonini, General Manager of Mid Florida Diesel.

# INSIDE

Blue Star Power Systems, Inc.