

Thermoseal Houston 2.0 – The Eagle Has Landed

KLINGER has been in the United States since the mid-1970s. Thermoseal Inc.'s main factory, located in the heart of the Midwest in Sidney, Ohio has been producing KLINGERSIL® fiber reinforced materials and Sealex® PTFE Joint Sealant since 1994.

In 2014, Thermoseal opened a branch office and Innovation Center in Houston, Texas – the epicenter of one of the largest concentrations of refineries and petrochemical plants in the world. This allowed us to be closer to serve a large concentration of our customers.

Houston is the most populous city in the state of Texas. It is also the fourth largest city in the United States by population. Situated in the south central region of the United States along the Gulf of Mexico, the Port of Houston is a 25-mile-long complex of 8 public terminals and nearly 150 private terminals along the 52-mile-long Houston Ship Channel. And this is one reason why petroleum corporations have built refineries along the Houston Ship Channel. The petrochemical complex associated with the Port of Houston is one of the largest in the world.

Oil and gas has long been the primary factor in the Houston economy since oil was first discovered in the region in 1901. Houston is also a world leader in the chemical industry, with nearly 40% of the nation's capacity for producing the basic chemicals that are used by downstream chemical operations. The Houston-Baytown-Huntsville area is home to over 400 chemical plants.

Thermoseal's Houston team effectively established a local presence and developed end-user relationships in the Gulf Coast area. The office and warehouse quickly became full with staff and inventory, and it was realized that a larger facility with manufacturing capabilities would be necessary in the near future. "Once we opened our first Houston location, we not only improved service to existing Thermoseal customers, but also quickly saw opportunity for the global KLINGER brand and more of our products here," states Thermoseal's President Scott Peters.

Peters also added, "Together with Christoph Klinger-Loehr (KLINGER's Group Executive Director) and top KLINGER Group management, the Thermoseal team developed a new, long-term strategy for the U.S. sealing market. This has set many actions in motion, not the least of which is the great new manufacturing facility we just opened in Houston."

In the summer of 2018, the Houston team moved into a new building double in size. Situated in the industrious area of south Houston, the new building is 21,000 SF on 2.03 acres with direct access to Houston's Beltway 8. The warehouse is filled with gasket sheet materials and Maxiflex spiral wound gaskets. In addition, gasket cutting capabilities have been amplified and metal gaskets are being produced. Producing cut gaskets and spiral wound gaskets directly in Houston allows direct availability of KLINGER products and solutions to the local market as well as much of United States.

In addition to warehousing and production, a local sales team is staffed to support distributor customers and end users. *Gasket and Bolted Joint Training*, Thermoseal's fluid sealing training course will continue to be offered on site.

On September 14, a grand opening was held and customers and end users were invited to tour the newly furnished office space and warehouse and see the manufacturing capabilities while enjoying some local Texas barbeque.

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Jackie Riley