

## Airlift Doors details 40 years in the carwash door industry

2024 marks Airlift Doors' 40th year of providing high-quality commercial products for the carwash industry. Airlift began manufacturing the "Original" air opener in 1984, and since then the company has introduced multiple new products, including the "Alaska" polycarbonate door, the "Powerglide" and "Magnaglide" direct-drive openers, the "E-Maxx" electric opener, and the "XRS" line of vinyl roll-up doors.

### The steel era

Forty years ago, most carwashes featured steel-insulated doors with an electric opener. They were not designed or engineered for the wet conditions and constant opening and closing between cars. Airlift Doors introduced an air-powered garage door opener designed to withstand the corrosive environment and

high daily cycle rates.

Over time, the steel-insulated doors would absorb the water and become heavy and unbalanced, and the hardware would corrode, which at best required constant maintenance or at worst caused the doors to break down completely.

### Better-suited models arise

In 1990, Airlift introduced their polycarbonate doors, which quickly replaced steel doors. At one point, almost every carwash had a polycarbonate door with an air-powered opener — that was, until the vinyl roll-up door was introduced.

Vinyl roll-ups have been utilized in the carwash market for almost 15 years. They have sturdier parts, can operate at higher speeds, and are able to withstand the impact



of a vehicle and reset in their tracks to continue operating after an impact.

### Return of the electric opener

Vinyl roll-up doors are operated with an electric opener featuring modifications designed to withstand the corrosive environment of carwashes. Improvements include stainless steel components, coated internal windings, and waterproof housing. Currently, about half of all carwashes have polycarbonate doors and the other half have vinyl roll-up-style doors.

Today, Airlift Doors offers polycarbonate overhead doors, vinyl roll-up doors, pneumatic openers, and electric openers for a variety of commercial door applications. ■

## Raynor technical training manager receives IDA Distinguished Service Award

At Expo 2024, Randy Diehl was honored with the IDA Distinguished Service Award. As an IDEA Sanctioned Trainer and IDEA Master Technician, Diehl has served the garage door industry for over 23 years by training technicians at the Raynor Academy technical training center.



Throughout his tenure, Diehl has trained over 1700 technicians, sales reps, office personnel, and business owners; and is continuously gathering or sharing product improvements based on his and other technicians' feedback. Diehl's attention to detail, quality, and safety, along with his knowledge of industry-leading installation techniques, ensures that technicians graduate with confidence in installing residential, rolling steel, and commercial operators.

Diehl has dedicated his Raynor career to educating and profoundly impacting the growth of the industry, and the industry congratulates him on this well-deserved recognition. ■

## Clopay announces Bricks 'n' Lagers Contest winner

In February, Clopay Corporation hosted its Bricks 'n' Lagers event at the 2023 AIA Conference on Architecture in San Francisco. Michael Poris, the winning architect and a founding partner of McIntosh Poris Architects, received a LEGO brick-built replica of his winning project.



The replica, created by LEGO artist Benjamin Radell, is modeled after a McIntosh Poris-designed Midcentury Modern-inspired 4,700-sq.-ft. residence in West Bloomfield, Mich., which was completed in January 2023. ■

## Encon Electronics celebrates 40th anniversary with three industry events

On May 16-18, Encon Electronics hosted its NorCal Expo, as well as a golf tournament and vendor dinner, in honor of their 40th year in the gate, door, and access control industry. The vendor dinner on the 16th served as a festive evening for Encon employees and vendor representatives from all over the country to join together in a fun and casual environment.

On the 17th, Encon dealers, employees, and manufacturer representatives participated in a best-ball scramble golf tournament. Attendees were glad to be back on the course and appreciated the delicious lunch and generous raffle prizes.

The following day, and for the first time since 2019, Encon held its NorCal Expo trade show at their office in Hayward, Calif. The 1980s-inspired event featured over 25 exhibiting manufacturers, and over 30 raffle prizes were given away. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to learn about the latest industry products at a trade show located in their backyard — the Bay Area. ■



## Hörmann sponsors Seasons Centre for Grieving Children

On March 7, Hörmann Barrie presented a \$1,500 donation to the Seasons Centre for Grieving Children. The money was raised during the last six months of 2023, when Hörmann started donating \$5 to the cause every time a customer completed their customer satisfaction survey. Since Hörmann started sponsoring the program three years ago, they have raised and donated over \$28,000.

The Seasons Centre for Grieving Children, a charitable organization serving Simcoe County in Ontario, Canada and beyond since 1995, has been providing peer-to-peer support groups for children and their families grieving the death or life-threatening illness of an immediate family member. ■



## MITER Brands completes acquisition of PGT Innovations

In March, MITER Brands, a leading manufacturer of residential windows and



doors, announced the completion of its acquisition of PGT Innovations, a premier manufacturer of highly engineered and technically advanced windows and doors.

The acquisition was financed in part by an equity investment from an affiliate of Koch Equity Development LLC, an existing investor in MITER Brands. ■

## Assa Abloy announces renewed ALCEA brand

In March, Assa Abloy Global Solutions announced the official relaunch of the ALCEA brand. ALCEA is committed to protecting vital infrastructure worldwide and will become a main brand, offering critical infrastructure solutions. French-based ALCEA SAS has roots in the security solutions industry dating back to 1995 and was acquired by ASSA ABLOY Global Solutions in 2022. ■

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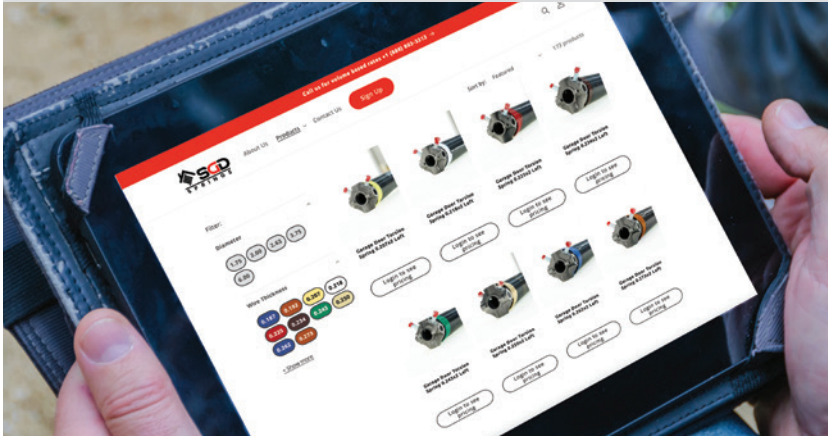
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### SGD Springs launches new website

In March, SGD Springs launched a new more sophisticated and user-friendly website with an intuitive online shopping interface. The new site marks a significant step forward in the company's mission to enhance the online shopping experience for their customers. It features a user-centric design, swift delivery services, diverse product offerings, and exceptional customer support options.

SGD Springs will continue to maintain its call-in order service in addition to their online retail option. Customers are encouraged to visit [www.SGDsprings.com](http://www.SGDsprings.com) to explore the variety of products and services offered. ■



### EMX expands its RFID line

In May, EMX Industries announced the expansion of its RFID product line, incorporating Transponder and Reader Engineered Systems (TRES). The acquisition brings TRES's passive reader and tag technology into EMX's already robust portfolio.

EMX offers long-range RFID readers and versatile keypads that cater to a wide range of applications – from securing commercial properties to managing gated community access and enhancing workplace security.

The Patriot series RFID readers feature exceptional range and compatibility with multiple communication protocols. Additionally, EMX RFID keypads and readers, now enhanced by TRES's expertise, offer precision and versatility in access management. ■



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