

VTX Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

by Amy K. Bomberger

Despite the grim U.S. economic conditions, Vertical Transportation Excellence (VTX®) (www.vtexcellence.com) continues to thrive as an elevator and escalator consulting service within the vertical-transportation industry's projects, totaling nearly to US\$1 billion in project value since its inception.

Founded in 2000, VTX celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. VTX provides design, renovation/modernization, inspection, and survey/audit services of elevators and escalators. Headquartered in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, VTX has provided consulting services to landmark projects such as the World Trade Center Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH) station at Ground Zero.

In addition, VTX has also provided consulting services for escalator modernization projects such as the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Project of the Year for

the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) (awarded in 2006). VTX provided design requirements and contract oversight for the rehabilitation of more than 800 escalators, elevators and other vertical-

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George Washington Bridge Bus Station, bridge located in Washington Heights, New Jersey.



World Trade Center PATH Station located in New York City.

Amy K. Bomberger is the marketing director for Vertical Transportation Excellence. She has 12 years of experience and holds a BS in business administration from Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania.





(l-r) VTX President Patrick Welch accepts the APTA 2006 Project of the Year Award from Mike Depallo, APTA vice chair and general manager of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and APTA President William W. Millar.

transportation equipment for the WMATA system. This included 588 escalators serving transit stations and rail yards.

The company's project for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey George Washington Bridge Bus Station also received a Project of the Year award from ELEVATOR WORLD (EW, July 2007). Over the years, VTX has expanded its services, location and clients in every major metropolitan area in the U.S.

Innovation

When faced with the challenge for inventive and creative thinking, VTX accepts the opportunity and develops a solution to meet the needs of its clients. For example, VTX patented the Oculus Network®, a design solution for

generic, open-source code remote control, monitoring, and video and maintenance management for elevators, escalators, pumps, fans and other equipment both new and existing.

Another innovation was the Parametricoder™, which was developed in response to a variety of needs to measure mechanical performance characteristics on escalators. The concept evolved by the need to measure escalator and moving-walk deceleration and starting characteristics, as well as tread surface deflections under load. This device is exclusive to VTX.

VTX understands code compliancy and its key specialists are active on several ASME A17.1 committees, as well as chairing the APTA Elevator Escalator Technical Forum, helping to improve elevator and escalator equipment performance and operation in the demanding environments of public systems. All of VTX's key staff are certified elevator inspectors and registered third-party agents in various states.

VTX President, Patrick J. Welch noted:

"We have [an] extraordinary, well balanced staff of professionals dedicated to excellence. This balance enables us to provide solutions for our clients that are state of the art in the most pragmatic fashion possible. From innovation to inspections, from computer-aided drawing to building information modeling, [our] staff is capable of [helping] our clients on a regular basis."

People Helping People

VTX benefits their communities. Staff can be found doing activities, such as "walking miles" for charities to raise funds for medical research, educating the public on elevator and escalator safety by participating in the Elevator and Escalator's Safety Foundation's (EESF) Elevator and Escalator Safety Awareness Week, and raising funds for the Public Broadcasting Service. We also coach youth sports and mentor children while helping them develop skills in teamwork.

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Parametricoder sensor platform system

VTX provides financial support to local churches, charities and community programs. It sponsors children in third-world countries, collects food and buys gifts for less fortunate people.


Success

Welch explained how VTX thrives at success:

“VTX still does business with every client we began with 10 years ago. This steadfast loyalty of our clients is due to the . . . work our staff performs for our clients . . . on each and every project. It is a responsibility we take seriously.”

VTX took operations through the International Organization of Standardization (ISO) certification process in 2007 and is currently ISO 9001:2008 certified.

As a specialty division within Gannett Fleming, Inc., VTX has access and coordination with core building engineering services that typically arise in elevator and escalator applications. Gannett Fleming has offices in 55 cities throughout the U.S. and provides a wide array of services in transportation and other technical areas.

VTX has come a long way over the past 10 years. Starting with five clients and a northeast presence, VTX now serves 150 clients across the U.S., and in Canada and Puerto Rico. 



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