

Foy's EPICS Events

Extrusion Production Information and Control System

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2011 USER CONFERENCE REPORT

This year's EPICS User Conference was a great success. Forty-eight users from 33 companies in 5 countries were in attendance. Participants received information on enhancements that have been made in EPICS over the last 12 months. They also had the opportunity to engage in discussions with other EPICS users regarding ways to better use both new and old features.

The 2012 EPICS User Conference is scheduled for April 15-18 in Las Vegas.

We are finalizing negotiations with the New York – New York Hotel.

Photos from the conference, as well as PowerPoint slides, are available on the Foy website – www.foyinc.com.

**EPICS IPHONE APP INTRODUCED**

Extat, the EPICS iPhone app, was introduced at the User Conference last month. Extat allows your customers to display real-time status information for their orders at the touch of a button. It also allows your sales personnel to display order status for any of their customers.

We are putting the finishing touches on the product, and will send out more information on it shortly.

Extat requires that you be running EPICS V8.17.

EPICS V8.17 UPDATE AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK

The EPICS V8.17 update will be released next week. It includes two major items that were requested by users on the 2011 Wishlist, along with other enhancements. The major changes are summarized in the following articles. Detailed information about these changes can be found in the EPICS Help file that will be installed with the V8.17 update.

Detailed downloading and installation instructions will be emailed to EPICS System Administrators.

CHANGE LOG ENTRIES FOR DELETED MANIFESTS AND VOIDED TICKETS

The #1 vote-getter on the 2011 Wishlist was to record voided tickets and deleted manifests in a change log. That capability is included in the V8.17 update. Those actions are now noted in the change log for the sales order (SOChangeLog.)

**NUMBER OF USER FIELDS DOUBLED**

The #2 item on the 2011 Wishlist was to double the number of User Fields on many EPICS tables. The V8.17 update does that. Tables that previously contained 30 user fields now contain 65. The new fields are *UserAlpha11-20*, *UserNumeric6-10*, *UserDecimal6-10*, *UserFlag6-10*, and *UserDate6-10*.

Five *UserNote* fields, *UserNote1-5*, have also been added, and they can contain 1024 characters each.

Over a dozen tables have been expanded with this new capability.

**NEW PRODUCTION SPECIFICATION FEATURE NOW AVAILABLE**

The #1 item on the 2010 Wishlist was a request to add press practice information for each die copy. In an expanded answer to this request, EPICS now allows you to create production specifications based on numerous attributes of the order-item, not just die copy.

For example, using the new Production Specs screen, you could create specs for any item that uses Die 03417 and calls for Alloy 6005, when extruded on Press 1. The following screen demonstrates creating that record:

Any time those specs are met, the following screen is available on the press operator's screen.

All of the fields on the above screen are created with the 65 User Fields in the new ProductionSpecs table.

DESIGN YOUR OWN SCREENS

Notice that the screen above is much more organized than you are used to seeing on User Field screens. This is a result of a new capability, the Screen Layout Designer, that allows you to design your own User Field screens, placing fields where you want, and grouping them within frames.

This capability is not restricted to the new Production Spec table, but is available on all User Field screens.

FOLLOW FOY INC ON FACEBOOK



You can now communicate with the Foy staff as well as other EPICS users on the Foy Inc Facebook page. Check us out [here](#), or at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Foy-Inc/114419065922>

ENHANCED LANGUAGE CAPABILITY ADDED

EPICS has long provided you with the ability to create translations for screen labels. But until now, there has not been a way to display messages in any language other than English. The V8.17 update adds two tables that allow you to create translations for all virtually all of the screen messages that EPICS generates.

The new Language table lets you specify each language for which you want to create translated messages. Then the System Message table lets you create a translated value in those languages for any or all screen messages.

This feature will not only be valuable in non-English speaking countries, but also in situations where users in a particular area, such as Packing, use a language different from other workers.

OTHER ENHANCEMENTS IN THE EPICS V8.17 UPDATE

The latest update contains other improvements as summarized below, but you will want to examine the "What's New" section of the V8.17 Helpfile for more details.

- Multiple files can be easily linked to a customer, die, part, etc
- A Scrapped Die Reason Code table has been added

- The Shortages tab on the Print Work Order screen now contains a “To Stock” column
- Note and Alerts now contain “Effective Date” and “Expiration Date” fields
- Multi-plant changes:
 - Plant location show on Racks tab of QBE Items screen
 - Printing of tickets can be restricted to their own plant
 - User is warned if editing rack in another plant
 - User is warned if editing a die copy in another plant
 - Use of die copies restricted to plant where press is located

LIGHT METAL AGE MAGAZINE FEATURES FOY INC

The June issue of Light Metal Age, the premier trade magazine for the extrusion industry, features a three-page profile of Foy Inc. Titled “Foy Continues to Lead with Powerful Management Software for Extruders Worldwide”, the story recounts the 33-year history of Foy Inc from inception through today. Starting in 1978 with it's home on the groundbreaking TRS-80 microcomputer, the story traces the development of EPICS into the world's most popular extrusion software.

Light Metal Age founder Roy Fellum carried a story on Foy in 1978, which help introduce Foy to the international extrusion community.

Ann Marie Fellum now publishes the magazine, which regularly provides extensive coverage of the aluminum extrusion industry.

Company Profile...

Foy Continues to Lead with Powerful Management Software for Extruders Worldwide

By J.D. Schlor, Contributing Editor

Since 1978, Foy Inc. in Farmersville, TN, has been at the heart of continuous improvement strategies for extruders throughout North America and the world. EPICS, a relational database management tool designed by company founder and owner, Jim Foy, represents a state-of-the-art Manufacturing Execution System (MES), which includes programs for managing all aspects of a typical extrusion operation. Though compatible with larger operations using management systems, EPICS is ideally suited to the lean environment of the independent extruder. Both Foy and EPICS have been highlighted in past Light Metal Age articles, and the following article serves as a review of EPICS development, and an update of Foy's efforts to maintain the highest level of performance out of this well-established product.

The Early Years

Jim Foy (Figure 1) got his start in the aluminum extrusion business in 1967 at Alcoa's Lafayette, TN, plant. His first assignment there was in the tube mill, developing practices for Alcoa's new experimental indirect-extrusion press. Excelling in his tasks, Jim was promoted in 1969 to Division Industrial Engineering (IE) manager. When Alcoa consolidated later that year, Jim inherited IE responsibility for the shop and billet casting areas. Shortly after taking on these increased responsibilities in 1970, Foy received an offer for the position of corporate director of IE for Texas Aluminum Corp., in Rockwall, TX. At the time, Texas Aluminum was the largest independent extruder in the U.S., with plants in Texas and California, producing windows and other fabricated and finished products. Jim worked for three years at Texas Aluminum on an experimental indirect press known simply as the “Texas Press.” Intriguing features of the press included replaceable backers with varying hole counts.

Texas Press In 1973, Texas Aluminum Corp. was purchased by Homotek. The resulting turmoil—not to mention increased bureaucracy—motivated Jim to seek other employment, whereafter he took up work as plant manager for Southwest Typographic, a regional typesetting business. Then, in 1974 Dick Pickens (former owner of Texas Aluminum Corp. and president under Homotek) notified Jim that he was leaving Homotek, and asked for Jim to assist in starting a new venture—Texas Extrusions. Jim gladly accepted, happy to return to aluminum extrusion. During the entire five year Jim worked out of a tiny office building in Rockwall, TN. The business model for



Figure 1. Jim Foy in his office.

Texas Extrusions involved development of novel indirect presses based on the “Texas Press.” These presses were to serve two purposes—to demonstrate the technology for sale and produce extrusions for market. Ted Greening, who worked for Alcoa Bama Plant at the time, was tapped to assist in these initial designs.

In 1975, Texas Extrusions found a site for their extrusion facility in Farmersville, TN. During the first months, Jim lived on-site in a small metal building. Both the plant and the first press were built simultaneously. In January, plant and press were completed, and extrusion commenced in the fall. For three years, Jim acted as president of Texas Extrusions, with Dick Pickens as owner and chairman of the board. During this time, Jim was responsible for the extrusion operation as well as directing sales.

Designing EPICS

For Jim Foy, 1978 was a pivotal year professionally. With the introduction of the Tandy TRS-80 personal computer (the first truly viable consumer PC), Foy immediately recognized the potential of harnessing this new technology to the extrusion operation. Foy wrote programs to calculate press practices, and to aid in the design and testing of future indirect presses for Texas Extrusions. Though frustrated by spending so much time on R&D and not enough on production, his experience working with the fledgling PC technology allowed him insight in the transformative power of these machines. This was reinforced each time a potential customer visited Texas Extrusions, where they would spend most of their time and interest around the magic little box seated at the operator console, rather than the presses themselves.

So, in 1978 Foy decided his destiny was to exploit this new technology as his own business—Foy Enterprises (later to become Foy Inc.). The resulting product, la-

NEW EPICS CUSTOMERS

The last few months have seen five new plants join the EPICS family.

Ascend Custom Extrusions, in Wylie, Texas, has purchased the EPICS Enterprise Edition. They plan to start production in their new facility later this summer.

Lippert Components Inc. (LCI) is opening a new extrusion plant in Elkhart, Indiana. They will start with the EPICS Basic Edition.

Schimmer Metals is a large extruder in Bangkok, Thailand. They have installed the Enterprise Edition of EPICS.

Pennex recently purchased an extrusion plant from General Aluminum in Leetonia, Ohio. Pennex was already running EPICS at their plant in Wellsville, Pennsylvania, so they expanded their system into the EPICS Multiplant Version.

INEX, with plants in New Zealand and Australia, is adding another plant in Brisbane, Australia. They will expand their system in Melbourne into a Multiplant Version to handle this new facility.

EPICS TRAINING CLASSES SCHEDULE



EPICS training classes have been scheduled for the next few months for the following dates:

- July 18-21
- August 15-18
- September 19-22

You can find detailed class information on the [Foy Inc web site](#).

EPICS CUSTOMER LIST

*On any given day
EPICS is helping over 13,000 people
at 90 extrusion plants around the world.*

Aacoa Extrusions – Niles, Michigan
Aerolite Extrusion – Youngstown, Ohio
Alenco – Bryan, Texas
Almag Aluminum Inc. – Brampton, Ontario
Altec – Jeffersonville, Indiana
Aluminio de Baja California (ABC) – Tijuana, Mexico
Aluminio de Centro America – San Salvador, El Salvador
Aluminio Del Caribe – San Juan, Puerto Rico
Aluminum Extrusions Inc – Senatobia, Miss.
American Aluminum Extrusions of Ohio – Canton, Ohio
American Aluminum Extrusions of Wisconsin – Beloit, WI
APEL Extrusions Ltd. – Calgary, Alberta
APEL Extrusions – Portland, Oregon
Apex Aluminum Extrusions – Langley, BC, Canada
Arch Aluminum – Miami, Florida
Architectural & Metal Systems – Cork, Ireland
Ascend Custom Extrusions – Wylie, Texas
Astro Shapes – Struthers, Ohio
Benada Aluminum – Medley, Florida
Bristol Aluminum – Levittown, Pennsylvania
Briteline Extrusions – Summerville, S. Carolina
BRT Extrusions – Niles, Ohio
CanArt – Brampton, Ontario
Capral Extrusions – Angaston, Australia
Capral Extrusions – Penrith, Australia
CanArt – Tecumseh, Ontario
Central Aluminum – Columbus, Ohio
Crown Extrusions, Chaska, Minnesota
Crystal Extrusion Systems – Union, Missouri
Extrudex – Weston, Ontario
Extrudex – Bernières, Quebec
Extrudex – North Jackson, Ohio
FISA – Guayaquil, Ecuador
Frontier Aluminum – Corona, California
G. James – Brisbane, Australia
G. James – Sydney, Australia
Hulamin – Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
Hulamin – Capetown, South Africa
Hulamin – Olifantsfontein, South Africa
Independent Extrusions (INEX) – Hamilton, New Zealand
Independent Extrusions (INEX) – Brisbane, Australia
Independent Extrusions (INEX) – Melbourne, Australia
International Extrusions – Garden City, Michigan
Jalex – Kingston, Jamaica
Keymark Corporation – Fonda, New York
Keymark Corporation – Lakeland, Florida
Keymark Corporation – Orlando, Florida
LCI – Goshen, Indiana
MI Metals, Inc - Smyrna, Tennessee
MI Metals, Inc – Millersburg, Pennsylvania
MI Metals, Inc – Oldsmar, Florida
MI Metals, Inc – Prescott Valley, Arizona
Mid-America Extrusions – Indianapolis, Indiana
Midwest Aluminum – Withee, Wisconsin
Non-Ferrous Extrusion – Houston, Texas
Oldcastle (Vista Wall Arch. Products) – Midway, Tennessee
Oldcastle (Vista Wall Arch. Products) – Terrell, Texas
Orrvilon (Holtec) – Orrville, Ohio
Patrick Metals – Mishawaka, Indiana
Pennex – Leetonia, Ohio
Pennex – Wellsville, Pennsylvania
Perfiles de Aluminio – San Juan, Puerto Rico
Postal Aluminum – Cassopolis, Michigan
Press Metals – Cumming, Georgia
Pries Enterprises – Independence, Iowa
PT Alumindo Perkasa – Jakarta, Indonesia
PT Indal – Surabaya, Indonesia
Profile Extrusions – Rome, Georgia
Profile (RJS Precision Ext.) – Phoenix, Arizona
Schimmer Metal – Bangkok, Thailand
Selaco Aluminium – Johar, Malaysia
Service Center Metals – Prince George, Virginia
Sierra Aluminum – Fontana, California
Silver City Aluminum – Taunton, Mass
Sierra Aluminum – Riverside, California
Spectra Aluminum – Woodbridge, Ontario
Star Extruded Shapes, Canfield, Ohio
Superior Extrusion – Gwinn, Michigan
Superior Metal Shapes – Chino, California
Sun Valley Extrusions – Los Angeles, California
Tecnoglass – Barranquilla, Columbia
Taber Extrusions – Gulfport, Mississippi
Taber Extrusions – Russellville, Arkansas
Tifton Extrusions – Tifton, Georgia
Tri-City Extrusion – Bristol, Tennessee
Tubelite – Reed City, Michigan
Vitex – Franklin, New Hampshire
Wakefield Engineering – Pelham, New Hampshire
Western Extrusion – Carrollton, Texas
Zarbana Industries – Columbiana, Ohio

Foy Inc
111 Farmersville Parkway, Suite 100
Farmersville, TX 75442

Phone: 972-782-7282
Fax: 972-782-7130

Website: <http://www.foyinc.com>

Jim Foy jim@foyinc.com
John Stenger john@foyinc.com
Scott Wilson scott@foyinc.com
Jason Naff jason@foyinc.com
Stacy Coleman- stacy@foyinc.com
Foley

General mail info@foyinc.com
Help help@foyinc.com

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