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the Future of
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Reshoring Momentum
Drives Demand for
Increased Domestic
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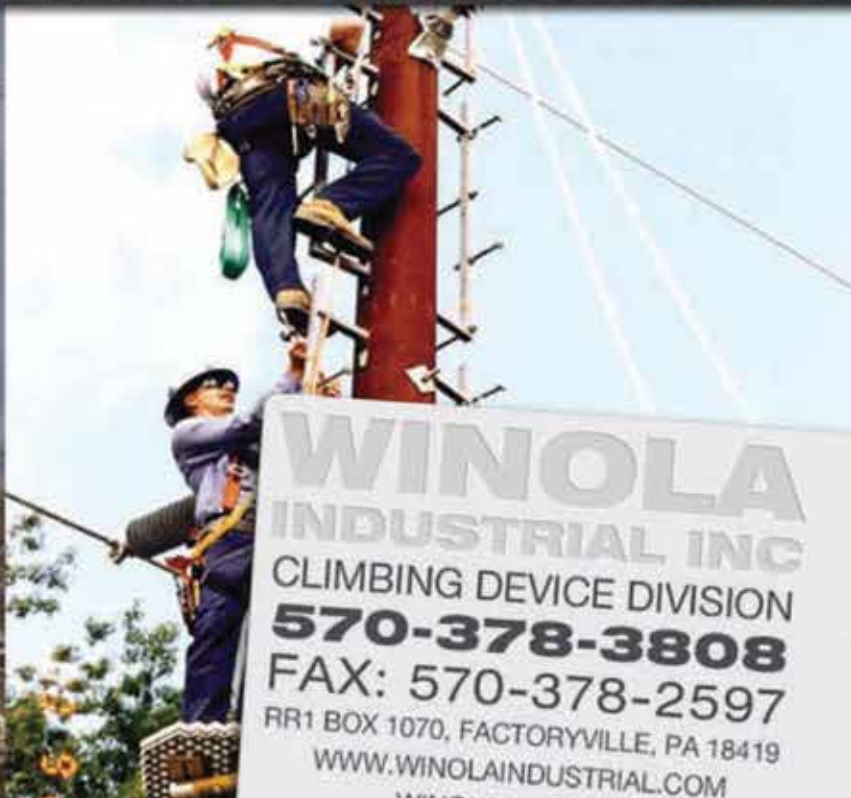
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Reshoring Momentum Drives Demand for Increased Domestic Forging Capacity

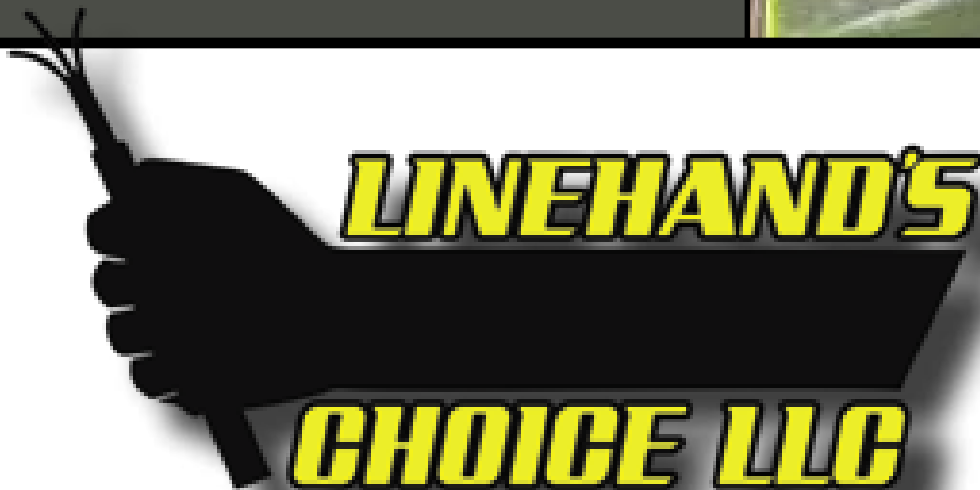
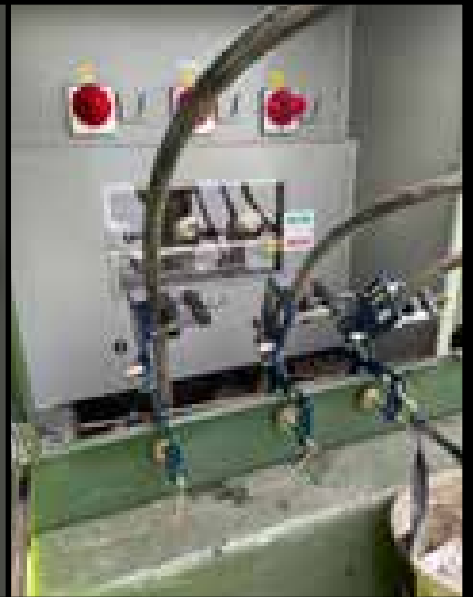


As reshoring efforts accelerate, forging companies are finding OEM rebuilds to be a strategic solution for boosting domestic capacity

Reshoring is gaining momentum as shifting global economic conditions are forcing manufacturers to reevaluate their supply chains, and forging operations are squarely in the spotlight. Aerospace, defense, transportation, and heavy mobility are leading the charge, each relying on a steady flow of high-quality forged components to support growth, innovation, and national security.

At the same time, policy and pricing pressures are reshaping the competitive landscape. Tariffs on steel, aluminum, and other metals have raised the cost of imports, making domestic forging operations more competitive. In addition, “Buy America” provisions and other government trade measures are

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incentivizing companies to source domestically, both to remain compliant with regulations and to reduce the uncertainty that comes with fluctuating tariffs and duties on foreign goods.

The demand to reshore forging also reflects a fast-moving and unpredictable global environment where conflicts and rising tensions are requiring the U.S. to deepen its investment in military ordnance.

Forged components are found in virtually every defense implement, from rifle triggers to nuclear submarine drive shafts. Heavy tanks, missiles, armored personnel carriers, shells, and other heavy artillery require forged components.

Forging is also a core component for a multitude of parts from engine mounts, brackets, beams, shafts, landing gear cylinders, and struts and wheels in military aircraft and spacecraft.

With these pressures increasing demand, manufacturers are now facing longer lead times for new or custom forging presses and hammers. Fortunately, manufacturers have more than one path forward and investing in brand-new equipment is not the only solution.

Rebuilt Forging Equipment

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into production when purchasing new equipment may not be feasible,” says Bill Goodwin, Vice President of Sales, Ajax-CECO-Erie Press (ACE), the largest forging equipment supplier in North America, founded in 1875. The company has over a century of experience in custom designing and building presses and forging machines spanning horizontal, vertical, mechanical, hammer, and hydraulic forging presses for a variety of applications.

commissioning complete rebuilds from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). This approach allows production to scale up far more quickly while new forging equipment is still on order.

“Rebuilding is often the fastest, most economical means to get worn or mothballed equipment back

According to Goodwin, rebuilding entails removing all a machine’s parts and repairing or replacing them with OEM components to return them to manufacturer specifications. Recognizing that the high-impact nature of forging takes its toll on parts over time, a rebuild typically includes replacing high-wear items such as bearings, bushings, seals, and liners and inspecting and repairing the frame.



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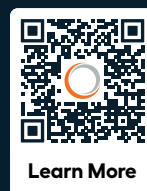
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Often more efficient and cost-effective than purchasing new forging equipment, rebuilding is ideal for quickly getting equipment operational again, often in as little as just a few months.

Rebuilding can even be an effective option for older forging equipment, including updates and modifications for new product lines or restoration to original specifications. A rebuild can also increase the production capacity of slow and inefficient equipment.

Optimizing the Rebuild

When electing to rebuild, manufacturers can choose to contact the OEM to rebuild the equipment or contract with a third-party rebuilder. The decision is significant, given the need for a complete, dependable rebuild that will perform as expected for many years.

Rebuilders often use a reverse engineering process to create their parts or have them machined at local CNC shops. Although this approach may work in the short term to “get equipment up and running,” it ignores the long-term view. Even rebuilders with experience working on various other types of equipment, such as stamping presses or injecting molding machines, may only partially appreciate the forces exerted during the forging operation.

Moreover, critical engineering design data is lost when an independent rebuilder reverse-engineers a part, resulting in inferior part construction and premature wear or component failure.

“Often they are rebuilding a machine without truly understanding the original design intent or the loads that will be placed on the parts and equipment,” says Goodwin.



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As an alternative, it can be advantageous to work with the OEM for an equipment rebuild. The OEM has the original design specifications, critical materials, and clearance specifications to jump on rebuilds and quickly finish the work.

A vast range of information is required for a quality rebuild, such as critical data on high-wear parts, the material grade of the steel, the heat-treating process utilized, and the required clearances used in that forger's engineering.

When working with the OEM, a rebuild is not limited to restoring the original design capabilities to today's standards but can also include significant automation upgrades.

"A rebuild can be approached in several ways," explains Goodwin. "The forging equipment can

be sent to us for rebuilding; we can send repair personnel to the manufacturer's facility to rebuild equipment on-site, or we can supervise a rebuild by their maintenance staff."

Whichever option a manufacturer selects, revitalizing old and unutilized forging equipment with an OEM can reclaim much needed capabilities from existing and dormant assets in a timely and cost-effective manner to meet increased demand for domestic forging capacity in the years to come.

For more information on OEM forging rebuilds, please visit the Ajax/CECO/Erie Press website at www.AjaxErie.com or e-mail them at info-sales@AjaxErie.com. Or, if you prefer, call 814-455-3941.

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JLG Invests in the Future of Skilled Trades: Building Talent, Growing Communities and Upskilling Craft Professionals

JLG Industries, Inc., an Oshkosh Corporation business and a leading global manufacturer of mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) and telehandlers, is addressing skilled labor shortages and workforce development by taking an intentional, people-first approach to rebuilding the industrial talent pipeline in America. As many manufacturers are feeling the strain of a shrinking skilled labor force, JLG's story is unfolding differently — one rooted in classrooms, welding and paint booths, factory floors and trade schools. JLG is not waiting for workforce solutions to arrive; it is creating them.

Through partnerships with high schools, technical colleges, trade associations and industry organizations, the company is helping students discover careers in the trades while giving current workers opportunities to advance their craft. The result is a growing community of homegrown welders, painters, assemblers, manufacturing and robotics engineers, maintenance professionals, service technicians and equipment operators ready to power the future of construction and manufacturing.

"In America today, there are more students who want hands-on technical education than there are



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classroom seats available,” said Andy Tacelosky, chief operating officer at JLG. “We saw an opportunity, not just to hire talent but to help create it one student, one trainee and one craft professional at a time. These programs give people a pathway to build a career, earn a living and stay in the communities they love.”

School-to-Work: Cultivating New Craft Professionals in Pennsylvania

JLG’s School-to-Work (S2W) program allows high school juniors and seniors local to its manufacturing facilities in McConnellsburg, Shippensburg, Bedford, Greencastle and Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, to earn school credit while working paid roles in welding, assembly, painting, fabrication, warehouse support and more. Students receive real-world experience, mentorship and the chance to transition into full-time roles after graduation. S2W+ — an advanced extension of the program — places students in specialized roles like maintenance, robotics, machining, engineering and testing for deeper technical exposure.

“Our School-to-Work program gives young people a real opportunity to help us rebuild the future of the skilled trades,” says Tacelosky. “These are students who want to work with their hands and solve real problems, but the classroom alone can’t always give them that experience. Through S2W and S2W+, they earn school credit, a paycheck and the chance to work alongside experienced professionals. We’re creating more skilled workers in the Pennsylvanian communities where our team members live and work, as well as shaping the next generation of craft professionals and manufacturing leaders.”

TCAT Partnership: Developing Technical Talent in Tennessee

Starting in 2025, JLG established a partnership with the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT), which is in close proximity to the company’s manufacturing facility in Jefferson City, Tennessee, to integrate technical education

with real-world factory experience. After campus visits, interviews and plant tours, several students are now working part-time on JLG’s maintenance team while attending school. These students rotate between first and second shift to learn from specialists across multiple disciplines

“This is what modern technical education should look like,” said Tacelosky. “Students are learning in class and applying it in real-world situations the same day.”

Upskilling the Trades: Investing in Team Members
While JLG is deeply committed to developing future talent through schools, the company is equally focused on investing in those already working in the trades. Through its internal trainee programs, JLG is helping current team members and new hires advance into high-demand skilled positions — particularly in areas like welding and industrial painting, where manufacturers across the country struggle to hire experienced workers.

JLG’s Weld Trainee Program provides entry-level team members and external candidates with the opportunity to become certified welders. Participants complete three to four weeks of classroom and lab-based instruction, followed by three weeks of on-the-job training alongside experienced JLG welders. Similarly, the Paint Trainee Program is designed to develop industrial painters from within the workforce. Through hands-on training and mentorship, participants gain the skills needed to move into full-time painter roles.

“Welding and painting require skill, safety, precision and pride in craft, and these are often some of the most difficult roles in manufacturing to fill,” says Tacelosky. “Instead of waiting for talent to come to us, we’re choosing to grow it — building careers and strengthening our workforce for the future.”

Beyond JLG: Partnering to Build the Industry

JLG’s workforce commitment goes beyond its own

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facilities. The company partners with trade associations, unions, training schools and equipment rental providers to upskill craft professionals across North America in operating and servicing MEWPs (mobile elevating work platforms) and telehandlers. These partnerships include organizations such as: Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC), Association of General Contractors (AGC), Association of the Wall & Ceiling Industry (AWCI), Mason Contractors Association of Amer-

ica (MCAA), Steel Erectors Association of America (SEAA), regional apprenticeships, trade unions, community colleges and correctional/vocational programs.

"We know we can't solve the skilled labor shortage on our own. That's why we're partnering with trade associations, unions, technical schools and industry groups to help upskill these professionals to bring real-world equipment, certified training

and industry standards directly to the people who need it most," says Tacelosky. "Working alongside these organizations, we're not just training people; we're helping them build lasting careers. It's good for workers, it's good for employers and it's good for the future of the trades."

Through JLG® University, the company delivers hands-on operator training, telehandler service instruction and ANSI/OSHA-compliant safety education to thousands of workers each year — helping contractors and employers employ safe, capable crews.

Creating the Future, Together
These investments are not short-term initiatives; they are part of a long-term vision for American manufacturing. "We're not just preparing people for jobs," said Tacelosky. "We're helping them build meaningful careers. And in doing so, we're helping strengthen the trades, the industry and the communities we're proud to call home."

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The Hidden Dangers of Ice Damming & Heavy Snow Buildup on Commercial Rooftops



A worker in a harness is elevated on a platform, safely removing icicles from a snow-covered rooftop on a cold winter day.

What You'll Learn in This Article:

- What ice damming is and how it forms.
- The risks of heavy snow and ice buildup on commercial and multi-residential rooftops.
- How to address these issues safely and effectively.
- Proactive strategies to prevent damage before it happens.
- How ARS/Global Emergency Management can help when winter weather strikes.

Understanding Ice Damming: What It Is and How It Forms

Ice damming occurs when heat from a building escapes through the roof, causing snow to melt and then refreeze at the colder edges. This creates a ridge of ice that blocks proper drainage, forcing water to back up under roofing materials. Over time, this leads to leaks, structural damage, and costly repairs.

For commercial and multi-residential properties, ice damming can be particularly challenging due

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to larger roof spans, complex drainage systems, and the potential for widespread damage if left unaddressed.

The Risks of Heavy Snow and Ice Buildup

Snow accumulation and ice formation pose serious hazards, including:

1. **Structural Overload & Roof Collapse.** Excess weight from heavy snow can stress a building's structure, potentially leading to roof failure or collapse—especially on older buildings or flat roofs where snow and ice accumulate more quickly.
2. **Water Damage & Leaks.** When ice dams prevent melting snow from draining, water finds the path of least resistance—often into the building. This can result in:
 - Roof membrane deterioration
 - Interior ceiling leaks
 - Mold and insulation damage
 - Electrical hazards
3. **Falling Ice Hazards:** Large icicles and ice sheets that form along roof edges and overhangs can break off unexpectedly, creating a serious liability risk for pedestrians, tenants, and vehicles below.
4. **Increased Energy Loss.** Ice buildup is often a symptom of poor insulation and ventilation, which forces heating systems to work harder, increasing energy costs.

How to Address Ice Damming and Snow Accumulation

Reactive Measures: Safe Removal of Snow & Ice

When heavy snow and ice accumulation become a problem, immediate action is needed to prevent damage and safety hazards. A qualified service provider will typically:

- Remove excess snow using proper techniques to avoid damaging the roof membrane.
- Break up ice formations strategically, rather than chipping away aggressively, which can cause

further roof damage.

- Clear drains, downspouts, and gutters to allow melting snow to escape properly.
- Use steam or low-impact methods to safely eliminate ice dams without harming roofing materials.

Technology-Driven Damage Assessment

The most effective winter maintenance strategies use advanced technology to assess risks and identify damage early. Professionals in this field leverage tools such as:

- **Thermal Imaging Cameras** – Detects heat loss, hidden moisture, and ice buildup under roofing materials, revealing weak points before they cause major leaks.
- **Drone Inspections** – Provides a safe, efficient aerial view of large commercial rooftops, helping experts identify problem areas without requiring hazardous on-foot inspections.
- **Moisture Meters** – Measures hidden moisture trapped under roofing materials, indicating where water damage is occurring before visible leaks appear.
- **Building Sensors & Remote Monitoring** – Some properties utilize real-time sensor technology that detects roof strain from excessive snow weight, allowing for proactive removal before structural stress reaches dangerous levels.
- Using this technology, professionals can pin-



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point risks early, reduce emergency repairs, and make informed decisions on snow and ice removal strategies.

Preventative Measures: Stopping Ice Dams Before They Start

Prevention is the best defense against winter-related roof damage. A proactive approach includes:

- Assessing roof insulation and ventilation to re-

duce heat loss and prevent uneven snow melt.

- Installing heat cables in problem areas to ensure proper drainage during freeze-thaw cycles.
- Clearing gutters and drainage systems before winter to keep water flowing properly.
- Using thermal imaging or drone inspections to detect vulnerabilities before they lead to damage.

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Winter is unpredictable, but managing snow and ice doesn't have to be. We've seen firsthand how quickly ice damming and heavy snowfall can lead to serious damage—often when it's least expected. That's why ARS/Global Emergency Management is always ready to step in when you need us most.

Our team works with property managers and business owners to not only respond to winter weather challenges but also help prevent them from becoming costly disasters. Whether it's strategic ice removal, snow clearing, or leveraging technology to detect hidden risks, we take a tailored approach to protecting your property.

If you're dealing with heavy snow, ice damming, or just want to get ahead of winter hazards, let's talk. We're here to help—because keeping your building safe is what we do best. Contact us today to learn more!

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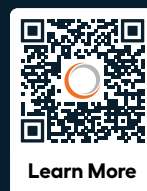
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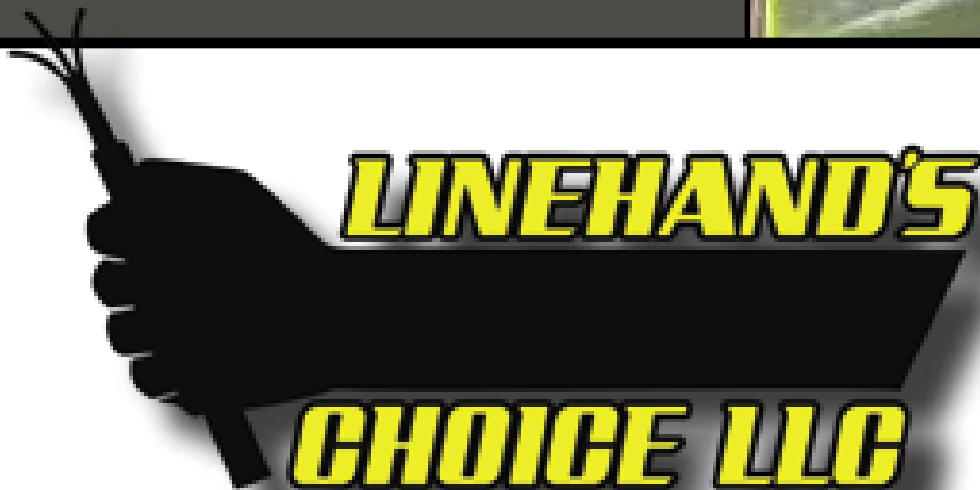
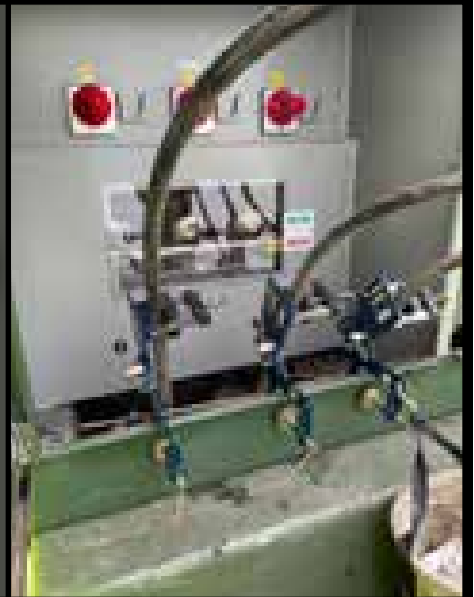


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