

PRESS RELEASE

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**OK Champion and Amac Equipment Limited
Celebrate 40-year Partnership
Built on Quality, Service, and Respect**

OK Champion Corporation headquartered in Hammond, Indiana, and Amac Equipment Limited of Richmond Hill, Ontario, are celebrating a successful business partnership that was formed over four decades ago...and continues to flourish through the present day.

OK Champion, founded by Otto Knoerzer in 1897, is a specialist in designing, engineering, and manufacturing equipment for underground applications, from duct cleaning of city sewer lines to rodding conduit and placing cable for utility and telecommunications corporations.

In 1963, the year that Amac was incorporated, the company specialized in sewer/drain cleaning equipment and road maintenance equipment with major customers centering around municipal, provincial, and federal government departments. Amac, aware of OK Champion's longevity and expertise in rodding equipment, began representing OK Champion products, the first being the 64C sewer rodder.

In the mid-sixties, OK Champion worked with AT&T's Bell Labs to redesign its sewer rodder to function as a duct rodder. The successful completion of this project then resulted in OK Champion's development of very efficient cable pullers and reel loaders. Amac, equipped with this expanded line, successfully shifted its focus to the telecommunications industry, where it began working closely with Bell Canada.

OK Champion/Amac, pg. 2 of 2

Several equipment demonstrations and field trials with Bell Canada resulted in Amac's development of new relationships with other telephone companies, from Newfoundland Telephone across Canada to BC Telephone. OK Champion's CP6600, originally designed for large, twisted-pair copper communications cables, was also ideal for placing underground power cables. Amac, selling the CP6600 to Newfoundland Telephone, was one of the first companies to sell this unit to an end-user.

About 1970, Amac new owner Bob Erwin met with OK Champion president Peter Knoerzer to discuss equipment applications for the utility industry. Already working with municipalities for sewer cleaning and with telecommunications companies for duct rodding and cable placing, Erwin felt that he could successfully translate his experience in these industries into the utility sector of the marketplace. OK Champion responded with new equipment innovations. In the late Seventies, telephone companies began installing fiber optic cables. The nature of these new cables dictated new methods of installation. Once again, OK Champion met the challenge by tailoring its equipment for fiber optics.

Today, with a truly diversified marketplace, Amac represents the entire line of OK Champion products and works with OK Champion to provide end-user insight on the development of new innovations for more challenging applications.

One such example is the OK Champion CP2000, a cable puller designed to provide easy and effective access to challenging conduit environments and in situations where it is difficult to place a unit directly over the manhole. Making its debut at the ICUEE show, the CP2000 is capable of pulling light cable in the 8,000-lb. range, making it ideal for pulling fiber optic cable and light communication and power distribution cable. Amac sold the first production unit of the CP2000 to Expertech, a division of Bell Canada, Toronto, where the CP2000 is used exclusively for fiber optic cable.

OK Champion, dedicated to continuous improvement and product development, anticipates that the strong partnership built over the past 40 years with Amac will continue well into the future. For more information about OK Champion and its diverse product line, contact Paul Knoerzer, President, OK Champion Corporation at (800) 431-9192.

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