

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2010

## MADE IN OKLAHOMA: AMERICAN PIPE BENDING CO.

**ABOUT**

- > **Founded:** 1987
- > **Address:** 3207 Dawson Road, Tulsa
- > **Web site:** www.apb-bend.com
- > **Key personnel:** Larry Houston, president; Chris Houston, business development; Jose Pereira, chief engineer
- > **Employees:** 35
- > **Services:** The company bends and coils a variety of pipes and tubes using state-of-the-art "electric heat induction" hot-bending and cold-bending equipment.

**A GLOBAL PRESENCE**

American Pipe Bending Co. President Larry Houston is proud of his company's motto: "The sun never sets on our bends or coils."

Houston said examples of the Tulsa company's work are present all over the world.

"Over the years, we've sent bends just about everywhere," he said.

The company's machine operators and welders can bend and coil pipe out of virtually all bend-

able materials, including carbon, stainless steel, copper, brass, aluminum, chrome, and nickel-bearing alloys. Those employees boast more than 200 years of experience in the field, Houston said.

APB Co. is one of the few pipe-bending companies in the United States and the only one in Tulsa that can bend pipe with an outside diameter of 42 inches.

The company purchased an electric heat induction hot bending machine in 1994, opening up myriad opportunities with various industries as it replaced the antiquated method of bending sand-packed pipe used by others in the field.

Officials said APB Co. has minimal competition worldwide so international sale inquiries are taken almost daily.

Houston said the company serves a diverse range of clients, from oil and gas to food processing to agricultural equipment, but it buys a lot of its pipes and fittings from local vendors.

The company recorded at least \$10 million in sales in each of the



Larry Houston is president of Tulsa-based American Pipe Bending Co.

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last two years, including a record year in 2008.

The company's growth has allowed it to expand its plant to more than 100,000 square feet and double its acreage to 11 acres over the past four years.

APB Co. can ship its finished products via air, rail, truck or water, using the Port of Catoosa.

JAY F. MARKS, BUSINESS WRITER