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OrCon has a passion for packaging

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From screw springs for Ray-Ban sunglasses to Lockheed Martin radar equipment the size of tractor-trailers, the scope of packaging solutions offered by OrCon Industries Corp. is varied and original.

OrCon designs, fabricates and manufactures industrial packaging products for other companies so they can safely deliver their goods.

Founded in 1984, no job is too small or too big for the company located at 8715 Lake Road in LeRoy, Genesee County.

"We run the gamut from 20,000 to 30,000 pounds to a couple of ounces," said company President Bruce Olson. "There is not much of anything we would not try to package."

That includes recycled plastic for Bausch & Lomb Inc. lens cases, returnable and reusable packaging for Delphi Corp. and other automotive clients, packaging for toner made by Xerox Corp and motion picture film containers made by Eastman Kodak Co.

Olson said that in the 1980s, the environment became an issue as Kodak and Xerox focused on the packaging they used for products.

The materials OrCon uses to create packaging include recycled newspaper, corrugated cardboard and plastic pop bottles, foam and wood.

One of the company's most challenging jobs was also the largest — packaging materials for huge Lockheed Martin radar units. Olson described the design of the packaging as "like little houses equipped with hooks and hardware."

For more than 20 years, OrCon has provided the packaging for Automotive Corp. of Batavia, a supplier of front suspensions systems for Ford, General Motors, Nissan and Renault.

Automotive Corp. quality manager Fred Mathers said OrCon developed the returnable packaging for the suspension systems, as well as the error-proofing techniques that confirm that each shipment has passenger and driver side parts.

Mathers said OrCon is "a local company that is close by and very good."

Three years ago, OrCon bought out FiberCel, a manufacturer of protective packaging in Portville, Cattaraugus County.

About 75 people work for privately held OrCon in design and engineering, sales and customer service. Olson declined to disclose annual revenues. The company operates in a 98,000-square-foot plant in LeRoy, the 65,000-square-foot FiberCel facility and another 65,000-square-foot plant in Cookeville, Tenn.

Olson said the company faces an ongoing struggle to remain competitive, especially in the face of New York's high taxes, and find new markets. The company attends trade shows and seminars looking for both customers and more efficient ways of operating.

"We find out what is new and what is coming," Olson said.

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