April 2023

### Company Profile: LAPA Industries

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Hydro Quebec Takes Delivery of MAXIMETAL's First Electric Utility Truck

Shocking Truths: Understanding and Preventing Arc Flash Incidents in the Workplace

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Powertron By Ronk's generator docking stations give you the ease of knowing that your facility is emergency power ready by avoiding the clumsy, costly, and time-consuming process of connecting temporary power. The Powertron By Ronk line consists of four different series: the Contractor Series, the Standard Series, the Breaker Series, and the MTS Series. With options including phase monitors, remote start/stop terminals, and 20A GFCI receptacles, we can meet your emergency, legally required, and optional temporary power needs. These secure and robust docking stations are just what your facility needs.

The Contractor Series is currently able to be produced in 100-1200 Amps and is the basic but durable entry level choice. The Standard Series, being available in 100-2000 Amps, includes various options to meet your application that are a step up from our basic Contractor model. Powertron By Ronk's Breaker Series can be manufactured in 100-800 Amps and includes a molded case circuit breaker. The MTS Series is currently available in 100-1200 Amps, and of course features an integrated Manual Transfer Switch.

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#### Lydro Quebee Takes Delivery of MAXIMETAL's First Electric Utility Truck



The new walk-in utility vehicle on an International eMV electric truck chassis is the first of ten to be delivered to Hydro Quebec in 2023.

Maxi-Metal, Inc. (MAXIMETAL), an Oshkosh Corporation company, announced the delivery of a new walk-in utility vehicle on an International eMV electric truck chassis to Hydro Quebec – Canada's largest producer of hydroelectric power. The delivery represents the first of ten electric walk-in utility vehicles MAXIMETAL will produce for Hydro Quebec in 2023. The International eMV series truck chassis features an electric drive motor provided by Hydro Quebec subsidiary, TM4, and a battery capacity of 135 miles.

"Our organization has grown substantially in recent years, and the trajectory of our growth will only continue, requiring additional linesman and network maintenance staff who will need service vehicles above and beyond our fleet replacement units," said François Barrette, director – transportation services for Hydro Quebec. "We have been involved in the research and development of electric vehicles for 30 years, and we are proud to have the opportunity to integrate the International eMV commercial truck chassis in the production of our new electric walk-in utility vehicles. Our goal is to electrify and decarbonize every time we have an opportunity to do so, in every segment of our fleet."



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Hydro Quebec's MAXIMETAL walk-in service truck model will feature a 33,000-lb GVWR International eMV chassis powered by a TM4 electric drive motor and 135-mile range battery pack. The 20-foot custom-designed service body will feature heat and A/C along with a severe-duty polyurethane insulation package for extreme climates. The truck upfit will include gear lockers, tool chests, and workbenches, as well as a custom nose-cone and cab cut-out design for direct access to the service area without having to exit the vehicle.

Hydro Quebec's power production spans 62 generating stations, over 21,000 miles of high-voltage lines, and over 66,000 miles of distribution lines in the province of Quebec. While providing electricity to the entire province, the company also exports more than 35TWh per year to the northeast region of the United States. To maintain the facilities and the grid, Hydro Quebec operates nearly 10,000 pieces of equipment across 35 fleet garages.

"Decarbonization has become a major priority for our customers, and we are excited to expand our product offerings with these new electric utility vehicles," said Christopher Sapienza, MAXIMETAL's director of sales and marketing. "There are now several options for electric truck chassis in the market, making it possible for us to design and build solutions tailored to our customer's needs. Hydro Quebec is the perfect customer for us to begin collaborating with on these new electrified products, thanks to our over 30-year relationship. Our teams have been working together for 15 months on the design to ensure these trucks will meet their operational goals."

The first two electric MAXIMETAL utility trucks will go into service at Hydro Quebec over the spring of 2023. Eight additional units will follow in the fall, with the expectation all ten units will be in service before the end of the year. Feedback from the teams will be used to optimize the truck's design before production of the nine additional units is completed and delivered by the end of 2023.

For more information about MAXIMETAL electric utility vehicles and the company's optimized intervention vehicles for utility fleets and fire services, visit www.maximetal.com.

#### About MAXIMETAL

Maxi-Metal, Inc. (MAXIMETAL), a subsidiary of Oshkosh Corporation (OSK), is based in Saint-Georges, an hour south of Quebec City. Founded in 1983, MAXIMETAL is a dynamic, innovative Canadian company with 40 years of experience designing and manufacturing optimized intervention vehicles. The company's core specialty lies in two product families: MAXI Fire trucks and MAXI Utility trucks. Our mission: To support those who keep our families safe and comfortable by designing and building vehicles that stand out for their quality and ingenuity.

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## Company Profile: LAPA Industries

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#### Shocking Truths: Understanding and Preventing Arc Flash Incidents in the Workplace

#### Introduction

Arc flash and shock hazards are serious concerns in any electrical system. They can result in severe injuries, fatalities, and significant property damage. Preventative maintenance and adherence to NETA testing standards are critical aspects of ensuring the safety of personnel and protecting electrical equipment from the devastating effects of arc flash incidents. This article will discuss the dangers associated with arc flash and shock, the importance of preventative maintenance, the role of NETA testing, and how they can help mitigate these hazards.

#### What is an Arc Flash?

An arc flash is a sudden release of electrical energy that occurs when an electrical fault develops a high energy arc between two conductive surfaces. The arc rapidly vaporizes the surrounding metal and generates intense heat, bright light, and a pressure wave. The temperatures in an arc flash can reach up to 35,000°F (19,400°C), which is four times hotter than the surface of the sun. The intense heat can cause severe burns, and the pressure wave can result in other injuries, such as hearing loss, collapsed lungs, or even death.



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#### What is an Electrical Shock?

Electrical shock occurs when a person is contacted by an energized electrical conductor or circuit. The human body acts as a conductor, allowing current to flow through it, potentially resulting in injury or death. The severity of the shock depends on factors such as the current level, the duration of contact, and the current's path through the body.

#### The Dangers of Arc Flash and Shock

Severe Burns: The intense heat produced by an arc flash can cause third-degree burns and ignite clothing or other combustible materials. In some cases, burns can cover a large portion of the body, requiring extensive medical treatment and causing long-term physical and emotional trauma.

Electrocution: Electrical shock can result in electrocution, which is the most severe outcome of an electrical incident. Electrocution can lead to heart failure, internal organ damage, or even death.

Blunt Force Trauma: The pressure wave generated by an arc flash can cause blunt force trauma, such as concussions or internal injuries. The blast wave can also propel debris or tools at high speeds, creating further risks for anyone in the vicinity.

Hearing Loss: The percussive effect caused by an arc flash can cause temporary or permanent hearing loss. Noise levels can reach up to 140 decibels, which is equivalent to a jet engine taking off.

Vision Loss: The intense light emitted by an arc flash may cause temporary or permanent vision loss. Even looking indirectly at an arc flash can result in eye damage.

#### The Importance of Preventative Maintenance

Preventative maintenance is crucial in minimizing the risk of arc flash and shock incidents. Regular maintenance of electrical equipment ensures that potential hazards are identified and addressed before they lead to catastrophic events. Some key aspects of preventative maintenance include: Inspection: Regular visual inspections of electrical equipment can identify signs of wear, corrosion, or damage. These issues can contribute to an increased risk of arc flash or shock incidents. Early detection and correction can prevent equipment failure and reduce the likelihood of an accident.

Testing: Electrical testing is an essential part of preventative maintenance. By verifying the proper functioning of electrical equipment, testing can identify issues that may not be apparent during a visual inspection. Regular testing can help ensure the reliability of electrical systems and minimize the risk of arc flash and shock incidents.

Cleaning: Accumulation of dust, dirt, or other debris on electrical equipment can lead to overheating, insulation failure, or other issues that increase the risk of arc flash or shock. Regular cleaning helps maintain the efficiency and safety of electrical systems.

Infrared Thermography: Infrared thermography is a non-invasive method of detecting potential issues in electrical equipment. By measuring temperature differences, infrared thermography can identify hot spots or other anomalies that may indicate a potential hazard. Early detection of these issues allows for timely corrective action, reducing the risk of arc flash and shock incidents.

Calibration and Adjustment: Over time, electrical components can drift out of calibration or require adjustment to ensure proper functioning. Regular calibration and adjustment of protective devices, such as circuit breakers and relays, help maintain the effectiveness of these devices in preventing arc flash and shock hazards.

Lubrication: Moving parts in electrical equipment, such as switches and circuit breakers, require periodic lubrication to ensure smooth operation and reduce wear. Proper lubrication minimizes the risk of mechanical failure, which can lead to arc flash or shock incidents.

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Updating Safety Procedures: Regularly reviewing and updating safety procedures is essential in maintaining a safe working environment. This includes ensuring that employees are trained in safe work practices, such as lockout/tagout procedures, and are aware of the potential hazards associated with arc flash and shock.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Providing appropriate PPE for employees working with or around electrical equipment is crucial in mitigating the effects of an arc flash or shock incident. PPE may include flame-resistant clothing, insulated gloves, safety glasses, face shields, and hearing protection.

Arc Flash Studies: Conducting an arc flash study helps identify potential hazards and determine the appropriate safety measures to be implemented. The study involves calculating the incident energy levels and arc flash boundaries, which inform the selection of PPE and safety procedures.

#### The Role of NETA Testing in Ensuring Safety

The InterNational Electrical Testing Association (NETA) is an accredited standards developer for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). NETA establishes standards for testing electrical equipment and systems, as well as for the qualifications of individuals and companies who perform these tests. Adherence to NETA testing standards is crucial in maintaining the safety and reliability of electrical systems:

Acceptance Testing: This type of testing is performed on new electrical systems and equipment to determine that they meet the manufacturers' and industry-standard performance criteria. Acceptance testing can help identify any issues or defects before the equipment is put into service, reducing the risk of future failures.

Maintenance Testing: Maintenance testing is carried out on existing electrical systems and equipment to verify their ongoing performance, safety, and reliability. This type of testing can identify potential problems,





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allowing for corrective actions to be taken before a failure occurs.

Certification: NETA-certified technicians and companies have demonstrated their knowledge and competence in performing electrical testing according to NETA standards. This certification helps ensure that testing is carried out by qualified professionals, providing a high level of confidence in the test results. Training and Education: NETA promotes the ongoing education and training of electrical testing professionals to ensure they stay up-to-date with the latest industry standards, technologies, and best practices.

By adhering to NETA testing standards and incorporating them into a preventative maintenance program, organizations can ensure the safety and reliability of their electrical equipment and systems. Regular testing according to NETA guidelines can help identify potential

> issues before they escalate, reducing the risk of equipment failures, downtime, and accidents.

#### Conclusion

Arc flash and shock incidents pose significant risks to personnel and equipment in any electrical system. Preventative maintenance and adherence to NETA testing standards are essential in mitigating these hazards and maintaining a safe working environment. By implementing a comprehensive preventative maintenance program that includes regular inspection, testing, cleaning, infrared thermography, calibration, lubrication, safety procedure updates, appropriate use of PPE, arc flash studies, and NETA testing, organizations can reduce the chance of arc flash and shock incidents and ensure the safety of their employees and reliability of their electrical equipment.

Ben Clark is the Director of Technical Training at RESA Power. RESA Power Service is a NETA Accredited Company and is the premier national provider of mission-critical solutions for electrical components, systems, and services.



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## AMERICAN MADE. Ronk Solid.

Ronk Electrical Industries has been manufacturing and serving agricultural and commercial industries with highquality electrical products for over 70 years. Our goal is to produce first-rate products that increase efficiency, stabilize power usage, and last for decades. Ronk is proud to have a team of experts, knowledgeable in the electrical industry. The Ronk product family of transfer switches, phase converters, stray voltage isolators, power factor capacitors, meter socket circuit breaker units, and now a full line of generator docking stations is a testament to our commitment to meeting our customers' needs.

Ronk is pleased to now manufacture the Powertron line of generator docking stations, featuring multiple options from the basic Contractor series, Standard series, MTS series, and the fully protected Breaker series designs. These units come in NEMA 12 and 4X enclosures, and offer color-coded series 16 cam locks, as well as options for GFCI, phase rotation meter, and a manual switching contactor.

In addition to the Powertron docking station products, Ronk Electrical also offers heavy-duty contactor-rated Series 4 and Series 4+ NEMA 4/12 transfer switches, as well as the NEMA 4/12 automatic transfer switches, or ATS's.

All of Ronk's products are designed, built, and assembled in Nokomis, Illinois; Ronk's proven history of reliability, integrity, and responsibility shows our desire to meet all of your emergency-ready power needs.



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