

Exporter of the Year

Bisco Inc., of Schaumburg, offers all the products needed for each restorative dental procedure including bonding agents, etchants, resin composites, core materials and fiber posts. Founded in 1981, Bisco is headquartered in a 91,000 square foot facility, 12,000 of which is a research and development laboratory. Through focused research and development, Bisco pioneered dental adhesion technology. Some of its flagship products include AllBond Universal, TheraCem, TheraCal and Z-Prime Plus. Through a network of international distributors, Bisco products are available in more than 60 countries.

Denbur, Inc., of Westmont, was established in 1979 as a consulting firm for several European dental manufacturers. In 1990, Denbur introduced innovative new products to the North American dental market. In 2003, Denbur began manufacturing OEM and private label product lines for manufacturers worldwide. All Denbur products are designed and patented by Denbur. The products are made with FDA approved plastics, colorants and materials. From the manufacturing facility in Westmont, the products are shipped to more than 40 countries.

MedGyn Products, of Addison, is a global women's health device company that was founded in 1975. The company's mission is to develop "Trusted Products for Premier Women's Healthcare." MedGyn has grown exponentially over the past four decades from 2 devices in women's health to having a comprehensive women's portfolio. MedGyn's growth in innovative products for women along with its vastly diverse international team has launched the company to be present in over 100 countries today. MedGyn is a Minority Owned Business and is a strong advocate for women and diversity and will continue to be as the company is dedicated to improving women's healthcare worldwide.

Emerging New Exporter

Neuro Enterprises, of Chicago, is a medical device design and manufacturing company. They specialize in creating and designing unique surgical tools and devices that save time and add efficiency to surgical procedures. Neuro Enterprises' flagship product is called the ChicagoTip and solves one of the most common issues in the operating room. Ordinary suction tips get clogged many times during surgery and cleaning them causes unnecessary delay. The ChicagoTip allows a surgeon to solve this universal issue quickly and effectively with no disruption to surgery. As improving patient care is becoming more and more important in many parts of the world, having efficient tools to achieve this goal is critical. Every single one of Neuro Enterprises' tools is designed to improve patient care, which helps the company's goal to expand and grow the use of our tools internationally in as many countries as possible.

Sun Buckets Inc., of Urbana, is an energy company with a focus toward sustainability. Their technology provides a game-changing innovation that enables the collection, storage, and use of renewable solar energy. With Sun Buckets, users can cook without fuel, fire, or emissions, and because Sun Buckets provide portable storage, users can cook when and where they like, including inside and at night. Sun Buckets cooks with the sun, even at night. They tackle head on the global cooking crisis, which is the 4th largest killer globally. Sun Buckets cooking systems are in Haiti, West Africa, East Africa, Cambodia, and now India.

Service Exporter

RoboThink, LLC, of Lake Bluff, is a franchised learning center that promotes STEM education in the areas of coding, engineering and robotics. They believe that early exposure to STEM education is critically important to prepare children for a fast changing, digital world. We invest heavily in research and developing new STEM products, curriculum and teaching methods to make sure that learning about STEM is fun, easy and educational. To support their education mission, they design and manufacture a line of products, with kids and ease of use in mind, that are used in classrooms.

Agricultural Exporter

4B Components Ltd., of Morton, is a worldwide manufacturer of bulk granular material handling components for both the commercial agriculture and industrial sectors. 4B leads the field in innovative mechanical and electronic components that help plants operate safer and more efficiently. With sales in over 60 countries the 4B group is committed to exports and the USA division's growth in Central and South America has helped consolidate 4B's global position. From elevator buckets to drop forged conveyor chain and electronic hazard monitors to level indicators 4B provides a diverse portfolio of products along with engineering design and support. Latest product innovations include HAZARDMON.COM a secure cloud based hazard monitoring platform, with temperature, speed and belt misalignment data recording and Industrial Ethernet systems that bring the Internet of Things (IoT) and Industry 4.0 within the grasp of facilities far and wide.

Continuing Excellence

E. Formella & Sons, of Countryside, offers a wide variety of authentic Italian specialties as well as other unique and distinctive gourmet foods. Since 1909, this family owned company, has provided premium quality, exceptional taste, and outstanding value in the specialty foods business.

Elastec Inc., of Carmi, is North America's largest manufacturer of oil spill response equipment, including oil skimmers, containment boom, portable incinerators, vacuums, & work boats. They have expanded the applications of their products to include surface water pollution, medical waste and drug incinerators. Today, Elastec's products are distributed to 155 countries.

Serola Biomechanics, of Loves Park, has been in the business of pain relief and prevention, manufacturing orthopedic solutions, specifically sacroiliac (back) support belts, elbow braces and other complementary products. Serola began exporting in the mid-90's to its first international distributor who is based in the United Kingdom and remains an instrumental partner. To date, Serola has partnered with 31 international distributors, exports into over 40 countries and holds over 50 domestic and international patents. This year, Serola has focused on expanding into the Southeast Asian market and has established relationships with two distributors in South Korea, another in Japan and is currently in negotiations with additional prospective partners in both Japan and Malaysia. Still ahead this year, Serola will attend an international trade show, Medical Fair Thailand, with the intent of gaining several more distributors.

Tuxco Corporation, of Gurnee, has proven itself as the global leader in hydraulic cylinder service equipment. Customers from around the world depend on their innovative equipment solutions — all supported by unmatched service. Whether removing, installing, repairing, testing or washing hydraulic cylinders, Tuxco enables businesses to do it faster, safer and more profitably than ever. Tuxco Corporation has proudly exported and installed over 1600+ piece of equipment in over 102 countries across the globe. Tuxco's equipment is trusted to keep heavy equipment worldwide up and running.

Export Awareness and Development

Illinois SBDC International Trade Center at the Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago (ICNC) has been helping Illinois small businesses export since 2010. It offers one-on-one counseling, market research, and training workshops to businesses in the region. In 2018, the ITC serviced 139 clients who exported more than \$45M in goods, a \$10M increase over the previous year. Its most popular workshops address export compliance, export documentation, security for the international business traveler, and export product classification.