

WTC Member Spotlight

MRG Labs

"The World Trade Center has helped us with language barriers, trade customs, currency exchanges, and better understanding different ways of life." - Lisa Williams

Profile:

MRG Labs began as a one-man consulting firm in 1999, when Mr. Wurzbach decided to leave Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station and start his own company. In 2006, he furthered the business to include experienced staff and created an internship program with York College of Pennsylvania.

MRG develops predictive maintenance programs and the application of diagnostic technologies for industrial equipment. These programs and technologies help clients more accurately locate, predict and prevent mechanical problems, and prevent production disruptions. Their goal is to save the client time and money. With this, they patented the Grease Thief, a sampling tool that allows for a consistent and representative sample to be taken from a bearing every time. Next came the Grease Thief Analyzer, an instrument that allows streamlined analysis of these samples, to assess equipment condition and find faults that could lead to machine failure.

MRG has worked in various industries and is trained in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering, physics, and chemistry. Many of their staff are certified in Infrared Thermography, Vibration Analysis and Lubricant Analysis.

First Joined WTC: 2009

Location: York

Founded: 2006 by Rich Wurzbach

Key Contacts:

Richard Wurzbach, President

Lisa Williams, Laboratory Manager

Evan Bupp, Lead Engineer

www.mrgcorp.com

Publications:

Machinery Lubrication (Oct. 2012): Highlights the Grease Thief as one method of taking a grease sample from a bearing

Machinery Lubrication (Nov. 2011): Features the standard MRG wrote for sampling critical grease-lubricated equipment for the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM)

Recent International Experience:

Mr. Wurzbach just returned from another Oel Check conference in Germany in January of this year, where he presented his recent work with Danish companies DONG and Vattenfall.



Grease Thief analysis machine



Trade Show sign



Sampling tool for grease analysis

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"It really is a fantastic story of support from the World Trade Center of Central Pennsylvania and the State's International Office." - Rich Wurzbach

MRG Labs developed a grease sampling device and analysis instrument, which requires as little as 1 gram of grease, making it especially useful for sampling used grease from in-service equipment. Their international expansion story started with a small Market Access Grant from the State of Pennsylvania's International Program, which supported their attendance at the *NORIA Lean, Reliable and Lube* Conference in Columbus, Ohio back in 2009.

At this event, a participant from Belgium initiated discussions regarding the most competent lab outside of the US for grease analysis, Oel Check, located in Germany. When Oel Check held their inaugural lubrication conference in February 2011, Mr. Wurzbach was invited to be a presenter for a session on grease analysis. He traveled to the conference in Germany where he met with representatives of the Danish wind industry, who flew him to Denmark in January 2012. In fact, he has been to Denmark a total of three times now to discuss their wind program, sampling challenges, and other topics.

MRG Labs is now under contract to the Danish companies DONG Energy and Vattenfall to develop a standard method for grease sampling in wind turbines and they are routinely performing grease analysis on samples being sent from Denmark and Germany.



In July 2012, Rich, Evan and Lisa climbed a wind turbine near Johnstown, PA. The wind farm in Johnstown is owned by EverPower and contains 58 wind turbines.

Far Left: Evan on the top of the turbine, getting ready to climb down into the nose cone, which is the middle part where the turbine blades are connected.



Left: Lisa on top of the turbine. Check out the skyline!