

Newsflash

Contributed by Amy Denney of Palm Coast Business Journal

Turbo200 Technology Simplifies Air Conditioning Repair

American Radionics Co. Inc. brings the technology race to the forefront of Palm Coast.

This family-owned business, located in a 50,000 square-foot facility in Hargrove Grade Industrial Park just off U.S.1, has a patent pending on its Turbo200 and Turbo200X, a universal replacement capacitor for use in air conditioning equipment. The replacement capacitor is a tremendous advancement in the cooling industry, says Robert Stockman, president of American Radionics. "The possibilities are vast and much larger than even we realized."

American Radionics found that about 65,000 air conditioning contractors carry capacitors that might need replacing in the units they service.

The problem is that each unit uses a dual value capacitor, and often every unit is different. Contractors may carry up to 40 different value capacitors with them but still have to make trips back to the office for the right one, Stockman says. Sometimes, they still have to order the right one, track down a distributor or spend at least an hour finding the right one.

The Turbo200 and Turbo200X are universal replacement capacitors that allow service technicians to replace anyone of the more than 200 different capacitors used in HVAC repair and maintenance work, Stockman says. The whole capacitor is packaged in one metal can, he says. It's an engineering marvel that's very specialized, very unique.

Led by Stockman and his brother, Richard Stockman, vice president, American Radionics boasts plenty of assets: sophisticated equipment, innovative engineers and the determination to never give up. The company is intensely proud of its "Made in the U.S.A." label.

American Radionics was located in Connecticut before coming to Palm Coast, a decision prompted by Stockman's love of Florida and the fact that it was less expensive to operate a business here than in the Northeast.

American Radionics has specialized in a number of projects throughout the years that it has engineered, developed, marketed, sold and then eventually quit producing.

William Stockman started the company in Brooklyn. In the beginning, the capacitors it produced were designed for noise suppression and used in the film and domestic automobile industries. A capacitor to reduce or eliminate interference in car radios was later followed by motor-run capacitors used extensively in air conditioning equipment.

Eventually, other countries began producing those products more cheaply. Other capacitor manufacturers took their plants overseas or closed down entirely. American Radionics, which consolidated operations from three buildings to one and moved to Palm Coast in 1987, has instead chose to reinvent itself, doing so several times in its nearly 70 years.