

FAB S and LAB S

Weinschel Associates – A Forward Leaning Approach to Legacy



Weinschel Associates (WA), a leading manufacturer of high-power, broadband, microwave components is building on the legacy of founder Bruno Weinschel. One sign of this is adding capacity, reflected in WA's expansion into a brand new facility in Mount Airy, Md. Conveniently located off I70, the new facility has more than 10,000 square feet of customized manufacturing space, allowing WA to consolidate, vertically integrate and maintain control of core technologies, while developing new technologies and processes.

WA traces its core technologies back to its founder. Dr. Weinschel started fabricating coaxial attenuators in the mid-1940s while working at Industrial Instruments in New Jersey. He began to develop what would eventually become Weinschel Engineering while employed at the National Bureau of Standards, now the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Following stints as president of the IEEE and chairman of the Committee on U.S. Competitiveness, Weinschel established WA in 1989.

The mission of the company allowed Weinschel to pursue high quality design and manufacturing through an expanded line of passive microwave devices and precision instrumentation. Key to the success of Weinschel's pioneering efforts in RF/microwave components was his ability to surround himself with talented engineers and scientists and a drive to be the best in the industry. He was a hands-on leader who, along with his staff, developed the essential techniques and processes that remain the core technologies of WA.

Weinschel led the company into his 80s, until failing health forced him to step down in 2002, when the company's leadership was handed from one engineer to another and Frank Wodoslawsky assumed the roles of CEO and president. Leveraging more than 25 years

experience in the military and industry, Wodoslawsky reorganized and revitalized the business, establishing skilled engineering and manufacturing teams comprised of longtime Weinschel employees and new recruits from industry. Their focus is maintaining Weinschel's approach to innovation: combining modern manufacturing processes and techniques with the technologies at the bedrock of the company.

These efforts have dramatically increased the manufacturing throughput while maintaining high standards of product quality. Standard product lines (attenuators, terminations and power splitters/dividers) have expanded, with new product lines (DC blocks, adapters, digital attenuators) added. In 2009, WA became a qualified supplier of space level products, taking its longstanding high-reliability manufacturing capability to a new level.

This continued organic growth drove the move to a larger, more flexible facility. Among the strengthened capabilities: expansion of resistor fabrication to include a four target, computer-controlled sputtering system, supplementing the vapor-phase deposition techniques pioneered by Weinschel. The in-house CNC machining and Swiss turning capabilities have also been expanded to enable quick-turn prototyping and internally-controlled manufacturing. WA capabilities include laser engraving for customized, high quality product marking.

These capabilities and the expanded capacity will enable WA to further grow its presence in the passive microwave and mmWave component market. Yet, despite the growth, the company still reflects the vision of Dr. Bruno Weinschel: hands-on, process-driven leadership focused on designing and producing state-of-the-art components, now for a technology obsessed society ever more dependent on wireless systems.

www.weinschelassociates.com