



Smith Equipment Manufacturing was founded by Elmer Smith in 1916. Initially called "Smith Inventions", it's humble design and manufacturing operations were located in a garage in Minneapolis, MN. Though additional product lines had been added through the years, oxy-fuel gas apparatus has remained its time test primary product line.

In 1950's, Smith's business expanded into the manufacture of high pressure gas regulation equipment. Looking for a more "high tech" sounding company name, Smith became TESCO Corporation, which was an acronym for The Elmer Smith Company of Minnesota. TESCO consisted of four autonomous divisions, one of which was Smith Equipment Manufacturing, and in 1981 relocated to Watertown, South Dakota.

Smith Equipment offers an extensive line of cutting torches, tips, and gas regulators. Additionally, Smith serves the HVAC and jewelry industries with a line of specialty products developed specifically for the unique application requirements of these market segments. Other Smith products include gas mixing devices, aircraft pilot tubes, and a complete line of specialty gas regulators. Smith's products are used in a variety of industries, including: construction, steel fabrication, ship building, and maintenance.

In 1998, Illinois Tool Works (ITW) purchased Smith Equipment. Illinois Tool Works Inc. (NYSE:ITW) designs and manufactures an array of highly engineered products including fasteners and components, equipment and consumable systems, and specialty products and equipment for customers around the world. A Fortune 200 diversified manufacturing company with 110 years of history, ITW's 850 decentralized business units in 52 countries employ nearly 60,000 men and women who are focused on creating value-added products and innovative customer solutions.

Smith's Watertown operations consists of manufacturing cells for each product line, which incorporate machining, plating, swaging, assembly and testing. There are currently over 100 employees at its Watertown facility.

We strongly believe the "future history" of Smith Equipment depends on every employee subscribing to the ITW's 80/20 rule and it's five principles of focus, flow, simplification, empowerment, and trust!!