

EGAN

COMPASS

NEWSLETTER

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Photo Credit: Mulcahy Company



Pictured above: The solar panels at Gregor Solar Site

EVOLVING WITH CLEAN ENERGY

When driving through Minnesota the likelihood of seeing solar panels on high-rise buildings or on the roofs of houses is now just as likely as finding a solar array farm in the middle of farm country.

Minnesota, along with a number of other states, is fully embracing clean energy and the production of electricity through solar panels; and Egan Company has had the opportunity to be a part of that boom in recent years.

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COMPLETED IN CRUNCH TIME

High-rise buildings are the distinguishing trademark of cities around the world. And, being the 16th largest metropolitan area in the country, Minneapolis and St. Paul are no different.

As a specialty contractor, Egan has played a role in helping to build, remodel, and maintain many of these high-rise buildings that help shape the Twin Cities' skyline. While these projects have included scopes of all sizes, this past spring brought forth a very unique high-rise venture.

Egan's team was utilized for a highly-specialized project in downtown St. Paul, Minn. The scope included the replacement of four massive cooling towers located on the rooftop of Galtier Tower – a staggering 31 stories from the ground.

Galtier Tower is one of two high-rise towers that make up the city block called Cray Plaza. The plaza also includes two other commercial buildings. Together, the block boasts hundreds of apartments and luxury condominiums, a small preparatory school, YMCA facility, and an assortment of other retail space – all of which fully rely on these cooling towers to air condition their buildings.

Overall, the project would require the tallest crane in Minnesota, in-house design and prefabrication, and even more pre-planning and coordination to complete the job within the compressed schedule.

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COMPLETED IN CRUNCH TIME

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NAVIGATING A TIGHT SCHEDULE

The project was officially awarded to Egan by Bigos Management in late March. From the start, Egan's team knew the new cooling towers would need to be "flown" up to the top of the building. To do the "flying", Egan began coordinating and pre-planning with a local crane company, Vic's Crane and Heavy Haul.

An in-depth, engineered lift (or often called "pick") plan was created while Egan's team began designing the piping and support systems for the towers. A structural engineer was also hired to design the steel platforms for beneath each cooling tower based on the drawings provided by Egan.

Vic's crane, standing at 410 feet tall, was tasked to hoist these four new cooling towers onto Galtier. However, driving a monster crane into a heavily populated urban city isn't the most practical of tasks.

In the weeks prior to setting up the crane downtown, the City of St. Paul removed a light pole, cut down a tree, and approved and coordinated road closures. Vic's also obtained multiple permits, clearances, and police support. Once complete, the crane took 12 hours to set-up on the street.

Another unique aspect of this project was that the new piping system for the cooling towers utilized Aquatherm

– a fairly new type of system that is an environmentally friendly alternative to metal. Though extremely lightweight (and vibrantly colored!), Aquatherm pipe is one of the longest-lasting and most chemically inert piping material available.

Egan's fabrication shop prefabricated all of the Aquatherm piping system for this job. It was also specifically designed so it could fit into the 7'7" elevator and transported to the rooftop of Galtier.

Vic's crane standing at 410 feet tall at Galtier



PROMISES KEPT

“Thank you to Egan’s team for their work on the 10th Avenue ramp project. They were very professional, always willing to work with other trades on site, and were a great crew to have on this project.”

– Randy VanHyfte, Synergy Builders, LLC

(The Egan team mentioned here includes: Labor Manager Steve Flaherty; Ironworkers Dennis Kerska, Glen Linder, and Paul Smoczyk)

“I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to Egan for their excellent work performed at our buildings. All of your employees communicate well with tenants and property management. They deliver updates, ask for assistance when needed, and provide us with complete honesty. I really can’t say enough good things. I look forward to working with Egan in the near future.”

– Nina Soffer, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority

“Thank you to Egan’s team for the outstanding work done to upgrade power to our facility. The final cutover went smoothly and the project was finished on time. The crew did outstanding work. We appreciate their efforts to perform the job well and without injury.”

– Tom Clark, GAF Materials Corporation

(The Egan team mentioned here includes: Controls Technicians Casey Higgins and Pat Hickey; Electricians Bill Witzany, Hanley Pesta, Howard Moy, Jake Swartzer, and Mike Planton)



Left: Installed cooling tower // Middle: Lifting cooling tower with Vic’s crane // Right: Placing cooling system on Galtier roof

THE RACE TO THE TOP

Although there was two feet of snow on the ground when the project started, Minnesota’s famously, unpredictable spring weather found itself over 85 degrees just a few weeks later. With the previous cooling towers entirely off the building, the countdown was on to get the first new cooling tower operational in order to start cooling all of the buildings within the city block.

At the top of Galtier, Egan’s team worked with a subcontractor to set up an extensive amount of scaffolding so the team of pipefitters, electricians, and controls electricians could safely access the work. All of the prefabricated Aquatherm and structural steel platforms were also set before the crane could “fly” the cooling towers to the roof.

The first weekend of May, less than six weeks after being awarded the project, Egan’s team, alongside Vic’s, successfully lifted and installed all four cooling towers onto Galtier. The compressed schedule... accomplished.

Egan installed a majority of the piping after the cooling towers were set and officially completed the project in July.

Core Project Team: Bigos Management, Vic’s Crane and Heavy Haul

Services Provided: Cooling towers replacement, pipefitting, pipe fabrication, electrical controls, electrical installation ■



EVOLVING WITH CLEAN ENERGY

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SOLAR BOOM

The explosion of the solar industry started after the 2013 Energy Omnibus Bill which mandated large utilities in the state to produce 1.5% of their electricity from solar power by 2020 and allowed for community solar array gardens. This bill also gave consumers an option to utilize solar farms for a portion of their electricity, so the reliance and demand for more solar panel installation and ground-mounted solar arrays skyrocketed.

Egan, having previous experience with the installation of solar panels on high-rise buildings, shopping centers, medical facilities, and business park campuses, recognized the opportunity and utilized our electrical expertise in a way we had never before – installing ground-mounted systems in fields and valleys around Minnesota.

“We received a call to complete a 9 Megawatts (MW) solar panel farm in eight weeks, and we knew it was our chance to show what we can do and do it well,” said Carrie Thompson, Egan Company Project Manager.

A CLOSER LOOK AT AN EGAN SOLAR SITE

Egan’s solar site projects vary in size, location, time of year, and type of solar panels – fixed-tilt or tracking. “Tracking” solar panels track the sun’s progress across the sky throughout the day, whereas the fixed-tilt solar panels

stay in place. Last summer, 150 Egan electricians were on the 65-acre St. Joseph Solar Farm project to install 28,188 fixed-tilt solar panels.

“This was a tight-deadline project, and Egan performed better than we thought possible. We had a contractual obligation to complete the community solar project in 40 days and Egan stepped up to complete the project on time.”

– Jamie Borell, IPS Solar Chief Operating Officer

The St. Joseph Solar Site produces 9 MW of electricity that Xcel Energy distributes to local subscribers of its solar garden program, all of which happen to be local school districts.

Egan had the role of lead contractor on this project and utilized both high-voltage and low-voltage electricians for all aspects of the process. Materials were prefabricated in our shop that provided safe working conditions and a faster schedule.

The 196 inverters were pre-mounted on a strut assembly (or racking system) and underground conduit stub-ups were prefabricated before going on site in St. Joseph.



Left: Installed solar panels at St. Joseph Solar Farm // Right: Egan Electrician installing solar array

SPECIALTY TRADES SPOTLIGHT



ENSURING SAFETY ON EVERY JOBSITE

Egan technicians continue to install solar panels year-round, and have installed ground mounts in all weather conditions. The safety of our employees remains our number one priority throughout every project, and Egan has taken measures to provide extra in the less than ideal circumstances – from providing hand warmers and cold-weather approved boots to sunscreen and rain suits.

The installation process also has certain risk factors – the solar panels are actively producing electricity as soon as they're exposed to the sun, and a solar array farm is erected with multiple moving parts.

“Over the last two years, we've completed a large number of solar panel projects in all weather conditions on all types of terrain,” said Thompson. “We're excited to continue to partner with our customers on these renewable energy projects. ■

PROJECT STATS SINCE 2016:

- 37 solar sites complete
- 881 total acres developed as solar farms
- 262,667 solar panels installed
- 106 MW of power produced
- Largest Egan Solar Project: 50,544 solar panels installed on 84 acres with 10 MW of electricity produced completed 2017

One source, infinite solutions. As an experienced, single-source contractor, we are driven by helping our customers find the right solution to meet the demanding requirements of each project.

Whether it's new construction, remodels, building maintenance, or anything in between, your project will benefit from craftspeople, project managers, and senior leaders who care.

Each of our 13 specialty trades demonstrates a sincere focus on safety, quality, and absolute follow through. Which is why we're excited about giving each of them the spotlight (so you can get to know all of them too!).

Nine of Egan's trades have been highlighted through a digital video series thus far – and the remaining trades are coming soon. Check out the most recent videos by following the links below:

- bit.ly/EganControlsElectricians
- bit.ly/EganGlassworkers
- bit.ly/EganOperatingEngineers



Egan Safety Coordinator, Jason Lindula, at the 2018 NFL Draft in Dallas, TX

WORK AT U.S. BANK STADIUM LEADS TO A TRIP-OF-A-LIFETIME



The NFL Draft located at the AT&T Stadium in Dallas, TX

A dream came true for a football fan last April when Jason Lindula, Egan Company Safety Coordinator, was gifted a trip-of-a-lifetime.

Lindula joined the Egan team three years ago as Egan's lead safety professional at U.S. Bank Stadium – home of the Minnesota Vikings. A long-time fan of the game, Lindula was inspired to become a season ticket holder after the time he spent at the stadium throughout the construction process.

Last spring, while renewing his tickets for this upcoming season, Lindula had the chance to enter a members-only drawing to win the ultimate 2018 NFL Draft experience. Not thinking twice about it, he opted in.

A few weeks later, he received a phone call he'd never forget - he had won!

The prize included an all-expenses-paid, five-day trip to Dallas, Texas to view the draft from VIP seating. And, even better, announce the Vikings late-round pick, Devante Downs, on national television.

Lindula particularly enjoyed connecting with fellow football fans from across the country and the opportunity to meet NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell, and other NFL legends. The experience was truly unforgettable. ■

For photos and more information on Jason's trip visit this link: bit.ly/NFLDraftArticle

Watch Jason's TV debut here:
bit.ly/NFLDraftClip

TO DRIVE OR TO BE DRIVEN?

Whether we're ready or not, autonomous vehicles are becoming less like fictional stories and more versed into our reality. Although Minnesota doesn't currently have driverless vehicles on its roadways, MnDOT is actively working on a pilot project to prepare for this future mode of transportation when it arrives.

Read about Egan's involvement with driverless vehicles here: bit.ly/driverlessvehicles



HIRING HEROES INTO TRADES



Pictured above: Egan Pipefitter Apprentice Ricky Martagon

For many active duty military members, transitioning out of the service can be daunting. Finding housing, employment, and acclimating back into the routine of daily life is a huge hurdle to overcome. And, although disciplined and highly-trained, many military members still struggle with unemployment.

To help ease this process and address the growing shortage for skilled construction workers, the United Association Veterans in Piping (VIP) Program was created. This 18-week program prepares active-duty military members to leave the service with sought after skills that can lead to lifelong careers in the increasingly high-demand pipe trades.

Specifically, the nationally recognized program trains and transforms heroes into Union Plumbers, Pipefitters, Welders, and Service Technicians.

Ricky Martagon, Egan Company Pipefitter Apprentice,

first heard about VIP at an exit seminar he attended when transitioning out of the United States Marine Corps.

Martagon served in the Marines for four years prior to joining Egan and obtained the rank of E5 Sergeant, as well as Shop Chief for his platoon. Though an admirable rank, he's the first to admit he continually reminds himself his previous title now holds no "authority" on the construction site.

"At times, it is a little confusing for me, but a lot of the habits from the military are still very transferable to my new career," Martagon said. "I still would do them every day with or without rank."

Nonetheless, the shift from protecting the country to helping build it has been a natural fit for Martagon and 1,000+ other veterans that have gone through the VIP program since 2008.

Martagon has been with Egan since early this year and is one of two VIP pipefitters currently with the company. ■

"To be honest, my experience [with VIP] couldn't have been any better. The people were great, and the instructors were even better," said Martagon, "By the time we finished the program, we were all good friends. I strongly encourage more service men and women to look into the course."

— Ricky Martagon, Egan Company Pipefitter Apprentice

FALL-A-PALOOZA

Join us for craft brews, local wine, motorcycles, a pig roast, prizes, and more at Egan's annual customer appreciation event. On Thursday, September 20, we'd like to thank you for your business and celebrate our future success with a fun-filled event at our Brooklyn Park facility.

Will we see you there? bit.ly/eganevent





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The InterContinental at Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport (MSP), the first hotel attached to MSP, is 12 stories and consists of 300 guestrooms, multiple meeting rooms, a ballroom, and three restaurants. In a Design/Build role, Egan's electrical team was utilized to provide a complete electrical system installation. A fire/life safety system was provided along with the design and installation of a TSA Security Checkpoint directly adjacent to the skyway bridge. Egan's InterClad team also installed 36,000 square feet of curtainwall on the hotel and 13,000 square feet of curtainwall and custom-fit patterned glass along the skyway bridge that connects the hotel with Concourse A. InterClad's Fabrication Shop prefabricated the storefront and 1,700 square feet of brake metal for the pre-glazed windows.

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Egan Company is a fully integrated, specialty contractor that delivers attention, commitment, and craftsmanship to every project. Egan serves every stage of a building's life, providing in-house expertise in planning, design, building, and maintenance. Core services include: mechanical, electrical, engineering & design, curtainwall/glazing/panel systems (InterClad), millwrights, fabrication, building systems, controls & system integration, and 24/7/365 maintenance. Egan has also been recognized as one of America's Safest Companies by *EHS Today*.