



For Immediate Release

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REPUBLIC MACHINE CELEBRATES 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
Leading Manufacturer of Industrial Shredders Celebrates 100 Years as Part of the Republic
Family of Companies

Louisville, KY —Republic Machine, a leader in industrial shredding for the recycling market, celebrates its hundredth anniversary this year as the youngest member of the Republic family of companies. The Republic legacy began in 1911 in Louisville with the opening of the Republic Welding Company (RWC), a 15-man automotive machine shop. Since George R. Sotsky and his partner acquired RWC in 1970, the company moved from an automotive emphasis to engineering and manufacturing heavy machinery. Much of the meteoric growth – from \$450,000 in annual sales to more than \$40 million by 2002 – can be attributed to Sotsky, an electrical engineer determined to improve the way machines work.

Although most of the multiple Republic brands that evolved during this period were sold to employees and outside investors in 2004, Sotsky and his partner retained ownership of Republic Machine, which produces industrial shredders. The company has quickly earned a reputation for excellence in the field. That’s because Republic Machine doesn’t just manufacture high-quality shredders, it designs them to meet the needs of customers.

“We look at problems that keep our customers from shredding carpet, pipes, and other products in an efficient and cost-effective way,” explained Sotsky, President and CEO of Republic Machine. “Then we develop via state-of-the-art engineering technology a mechanical way to resolve the problem.” For example, the nation needs to find a way to



divert the five billion pounds of used carpet that is being dumped in U.S. landfills each year. The Environmental Protection Agency challenged the industry to reduce by 2012 the level of used carpet sent to landfills by 20 percent or face severe sanctions. Unfortunately, shredding carpet for recycling is a costly, time-consuming process with the existing shredders on the market. The typical system had to be shut down regularly for maintenance due to overheating as well as to replace machine consumables (shredder cutters and knives) that were rapidly eroded by the abrasive materials in carpeting.

Sotsky and his team of engineers developed the patented modular Split-A-Part shredder (which reduces maintenance downtime) with a Zoidal cutting system (which allows consumables to operate for long periods without replacement) to address these problems. Compared to similar-sized shredders, the Spit-A-Part shredder increases throughput more than 300 percent and lowers operating costs to less than a half cent per pound.

Republic Machine's unique carpet shredder is but one example of the company's commitment customer problem solving and product innovation. When Sotsky noticed that his pipe shredding customers were using a lot of chain saws, he investigated. Because existing shredders could not shred pipe 20 feet in length or longer, pipe companies had to invest considerable time cutting longer pipes with a chain saw so they would fit in the shredder. Sotsky decided his company would find a way to eliminate this time-consuming and potentially dangerous prep work. Republic Machine reengineered its pipe cutting system to handle pipes up to 60 feet long. This new pipe shredder is the only North American shredder on the market that can process long pipes without first cutting them.

For Sotsky, a former Marine with a degree in electrical engineering, improving things is just part of the way his brain operates. Early in his career he worked at the Naval Ordnance Station where he supervised 50 engineers in the design of Naval Gun & Missile Control Systems. Since acquiring his first Republic company in 1970, Sotsky has focused on making



better products for his customers via the latest engineering technology so that Republic Machine shredders are the most productive, reliable and serviceable on the market.

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