

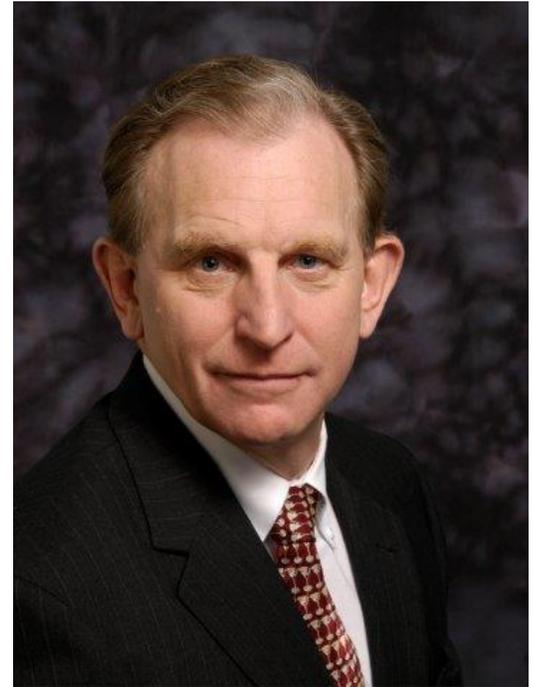


Based in Ashland, Ohio, Atlas Bolt & Screw Company, LLC is recognized as one of the most knowledgeable and respected names in the fastener business. Atlas provides the widest selection of fasteners for metal-to-metal and metal-to-wood applications, with a proven track record of quality and reliability throughout the U. S. and the world.

Atlas' unique fasteners meet the growing need for energy efficiency, specializing in watertight fasteners and minimal panel compression, maintaining thermal performance.

Atlas has offered its distinct, broad line of fasteners since 1896, though the company has specialized solely in fasteners that reduce installation costs and extend the lives of metal buildings for the past 30 years. This is around the time that industry veteran Randy Ridenour joined the team. Ridenour has served as President of Atlas for the past five years, overseeing some of the greatest advances in building fastener technology

Ridenour recently discussed some of the latest industry trends, and how Atlas has managed to stay ahead of the competition.



Randy Ridenour

## **How has the industry changed since you first joined the company in 1984?**

Ridenour: The biggest change is that the construction materials used in the industry have become more eco-friendly, more green, and that's a big definition. We're talking about not only the material itself, but the performance of those materials and the overall systems trending towards greater energy efficiency.

These are certainly welcome changes, but also there are complications that arise with these changes. Specifically, when you have a metal panel absorbing so much heat and cold, you have a new level of contraction and expansion, which puts a great deal of additional pressure on the fasteners.

## **How has Atlas remained an industry leader over the years? What are some of the company's most notable achievements?**

Atlas is the leader in two areas of dramatic improvement. First, field performance of fastener installation—Atlas has utilized improvement in point design, heat-treat consistency, and thread design.

And second, there's compatibility of the fastener with the metal panel. Corrosion resistance is not looked at simply through the fastener, but the application as a whole.



**Atlas is responsible for many of the latest advances in building fastener technology. What are some of your recent product offerings? What are you most excited about?**

Specifically, I'm most excited to talk about our tapered compression self-drilling point technology, as well as the advancement of thread performance on our 300 Series stainless fasteners and the zinc die-cast heads of the Ultimate®, our new fastener that eliminates the voids and gaps found with capped fasteners.

**How do Atlas fasteners differ from other fasteners on the market?**

Atlas is one of the few true manufacturers of fasteners, both domestically and in our wholly owned plant in Shenzhen, China. Designing, manufacturing, and marketing fasteners into systems is still our only business.

**How do Atlas fasteners minimize moisture intrusion?**

Our non-conductive, EPDM [ethylene propylene diene monomer rubber] sealing washers keep water out, and our FlatTop® and Ultimate® fasteners are manufactured with a special undercut head that entraps the washer for a watertight seal.

**Along the same line, Atlas offers an energy efficient fastener designed to increase thermal values. What is that product line, and how can fasteners boost thermal performance?**

The ERV® fastener is designed to stop drilling, using a controlled stopping point. This results in minimum compression of the insulation, leading to increased R-values. This stopping point also eliminates the “dimpled” appearance of the panel.

**Explain the importance of coatings in the fastener business, from both a corrosion resistance standpoint and in terms of aesthetics.**

Post-plating films, such as Oxyseal, have greatly increased the fastener's resistance to corrosion. It's carefully compounded to be non-conductive and resistant to chipping, abrasion, and scuffing from socket impact. In regards to aesthetics, we have a paint system that computer matches the fastener paint color to panel colors for a perfect blend.

**Segments of the metal construction market have taken a natural dip in recent years due to the economy. Do you anticipate a bounce back in the near future, and have you noticed any new or changing industry trends since the recession?**

We believe the use of metal in construction will continue to outpace other construction materials for the following reasons:

- ✓ It is recyclable
- ✓ It is environmentally friendly
- ✓ It offers superior lifecycle cost advantages
- ✓ There are a variety of substrates and colors
- ✓ Insulated panels offer another level of performance
- ✓ Metal is adaptable to photovoltaic energy systems.

### What advantages does the 300 Series offer?

The advantage of the 300 Series stainless fastener is that it can be used in highly corrosive environments, and the ductility of 300 Series stainless fasteners allows for expansion, contraction, and movement of the fastener without breaking.

