

FOURTH PLACE SIZE CATEGORY - MEDIUM

## Best places to work in St. Louis

### EXPERITEC INC.

BY SID PRICE

It is the unseen and intangible that has employees at Experitec raving about the company.

"The major focus of the company is to determine what is best for its employees and how to go about providing those things," said Jane Wagner, sales and marketing manager for MYNAH Technologies, a division of Experitec, Inc. "It really seems too good to be true, but until you've been here, you really can't understand the outstanding environment that exists."

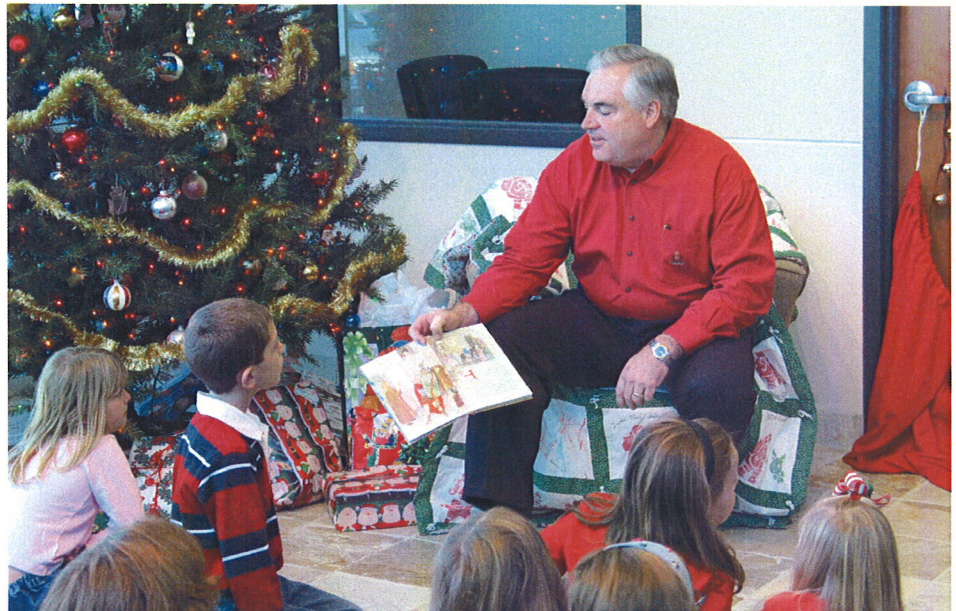
Experitec Inc. is a manufacturer's representative for Emerson Process Management (EPM), a division of St. Louis-based Emerson Electric. As a representative for EPM, Experitec sells process-control equipment including motors, valves, regulators and pumps. As one of 32 EPM manufacturer's reps, Experitec serves customers in the Midwest.

Experitec has about 80 employees. Its name comes from an amalgamation of the words experience and technology.

President Larry Tietjen is the primary reason they are so satisfied in their jobs, employees say. Tietjen, who has owned the company for about 10 years, could not be reached for comment, but company management said that keeping employees happy pays real dividends.

"A happy employee is better able to serve the customer, and they will go the extra mile, which is generally required today," said Mark Franklin, vice president and general manager of Experitec Inc. "It just makes sense that if an employee is fulfilled and wants to be at work, that it will show through to the customer."

Franklin said this is achieved in



Employees say Experitec President Larry Tietjen has created a company environment where "families are welcome," which includes holiday parties for employees and their families.

ways that range from providing employees with the equipment or training needed to do their jobs better to having regular parties and events for employees and their families.

"The company is an extension of Larry's family, and the company is a place where families are welcome," Franklin said. "He is the spirit of this place."

High business ethics are a part of that spirit.

"The primary reason I came here was the integrity of the company from top to bottom," said Marly Isaac, executive assistant. "Larry is a godly man, and he lives by the belief that you do unto others the way that you would have them do unto you. You want to give your all to someone who is treating you like you are so valuable."

The firm is very aware of issues employees face outside of the office.

"If there is a family crisis, we have the leeway to take time off to take care of it," said Mike Natale, information

systems engineer. "I had a situation last year, and Larry told me to take off as much time as I needed to straighten it out. He knows that I won't be a good employee if I'm worried about outside things while I am at work."

The corporate culture at Experitec is professional, but not heavy-handed.

"It is like a flat hierarchy here," Natale said. "It is not as if I have to report directly to somebody. It feels more like we are working with the person in charge rather than for the person in charge."

Aside from its Chesterfield Valley headquarters, Experitec has five branch offices: in Decatur, Ill.; Lenexa, Wichita and Liberal, Kan.; and Woodward, Okla.

In addition to being a rep for EPM, Experitec owns MYNAH Technologies, which makes process-control software. Experitec sells and markets MYNAH Technologies' software worldwide.

*Sid Price is a St. Louis freelance writer.*