



AKF GROUP EXPANDS ITS REACH WITH NEW OFFICES IN MINNESOTA

Effective May 1, 2010, AKF Group is opening two offices in Minnesota – one in Rochester and the other in the twin cities area. Jim Sebesta, P.E., will head the newly formed Minnesota region.

“Sebesta’s extensive experience in Minnesota, his leadership and special expertise offered us the opportunity to add a talented and well respected individual to our management team and, at the same time, allowed us to broaden our geographic reach into the Mid-Western states, ”explained Managing Partner Paul Bello.

“Our focus will be to offer mechanical and electrical engineering, consulting and commissioning services for architects, contractors, building owners and managers”, Sebesta explains. “The depth of AKF’s experience and capabilities on a national and international basis provides us the strength and ability to bring a high level of client focus and technical expertise to unique situations in the Midwestern area.”

Sebesta, 55, is a Rochester native. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1976 and attended Metropolitan State University in the 1980’s completing a majority of his MBA course work concentrating in marketing and business finance. Sebesta has been in the consulting engineering business since first interning with a small St. Paul consulting engineer to pay for college and, since then, has served in various roles in Rochester and Duluth before relocating to the Twin Cities in 1983.

Prior to joining AKF, Sebesta was co-founder and CEO of Sebesta Blomberg which he grew from a start-up in 1994 to a \$35 million dollar national engineering and commissioning firm with headquarters in Roseville, MN and offices in several cities throughout the US. In January of 2008, the company transitioned management and Sebesta and Blomberg were bought out of their ownership positions.

Sebesta and Bello have known each other for several years. Bello contacted Sebesta as his non-compete was coming to an end to discuss how they might work together to expand AKF’s services to other regions and markets. Many of the national architects, financial institutions and property management firms located in the Twin Cities are already clients of AKF on the East Coast.

“With large health-care, educational, corporate, financial and technology companies located in Minneapolis and the surrounding region”, Bello adds, “we see opportunities similar to the eastern regional offices. Many of these same clients have facilities and operations elsewhere in the country where we can provide seamless client services throughout a larger region.”

Bello and Sebesta expect to begin winning business in the region very quickly.