



## *Pat Babka Expands on Vision and Growth for the Future of Clark-Reliance®*

### **Give us a brief summary of who you are and your experiences up to this point?**

Growing up in Omaha, Nebraska, I graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Notre Dame in 1996. Immediately following graduation, I served in the United States Navy for 6 years as a submarine officer. I left military service in 2002 and received a Master of Business Administration from the University of Michigan in 2004.

Following business school, I started work at Emerson's headquarters in Saint Louis, Missouri as a strategic planner. In the 18 years since, I have been very fortunate to work in a variety of leadership roles in several businesses across the process instrumentation and control industry. I am very grateful for my time at Emerson, as those experiences have prepared me for the opportunity to lead the Clark-Reliance business through this exciting period of growth and expansion.

### **What attracted you to Clark-Reliance?**

First off, Clark-Reliance is a great company focused on two main business segments, 1) Process Level and Flow instrumentation and 2) Gas and Liquid Filtration and Purity Solutions. In the Instrumentation segment, we go to market under staple brands such as Reliance®, Jerguson®, Jacoby-Tarbox®, and a few others. In the Purity Solutions segment we go to market under Oil Filtration Systems®, Enervac®, Anderson® and Filcoa. Our customers know our products for their reliability and innovation, so that is a wonderful place to start!

For nearly 60 years, Clark-Reliance was a family-owned business. During this period, the family built a fantastic culture and developed world class industrial manufacturing capabilities here in Northeast Ohio. Over the years, they made several investments to strengthen the business through acquisitions, and built a fabulous team of talented individuals along the way.

Late last year, the family decided to sell the business to Radial Equity Partners, a private investment firm focused on supporting the growth of North American industrial businesses. As part of the ownership transition, I was contacted about potentially leading the company. As I got to learn more about the strengths of Clark-Reliance and the organic growth and acquisition opportunities that lay ahead, it was a "no-brainer" for me to pursue this opportunity.

### **What is your long-term Strategic Vision for Clark-Reliance?**

My focus is in two key areas: 1) Strengthen our culture of continuous improvement, and 2) Grow both organically and through strategic acquisitions. On the continuous improvement side, every business in which I have worked up to this point has had opportunities to get better. For me as a leader, I feel fortunate to have had a broad set of experiences to draw from and hopefully to bring new perspectives to the team here at Clark-Reliance on how to help improve the business in all areas, large and small. As we continue to chip away at these opportunities together, we will uncover new opportunities as a team which will then, in turn, bring the business to new heights.

Finally, from a growth mindset, our team is excited and energized to further expand our product offering and serve new markets through strategic acquisitions. We have the capabilities and resources to complete acquisitions with the goal of better serving our customers with premium instrumentation technology and filtration products and services. This is, of course, in addition to our robust internal growth and investment plans to leverage the strength of our brands and our internal design and fabrication capabilities. In short, we are on the lookout for great companies to join us!