



# BEHLEN update

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**BEHLEN**  
Made Strong

## Greeting from Sean Lepper, Vice-President and General Manager at BEHLEN

The first quarter of 2015 has been a busy one. We are working full speed ahead in the plant and have started our first conventional steel project right here in Brandon at the Keystone Center. We finally got to see all of our engineering departments hard work come to life with the addition of our new robotic technology and were able to share in the excitement at the BEHLEN Open House with almost 200 guests from all across North America.

The Open House was a very unique opportunity for us to showcase all of the changes we have made to our facilities in the past few years and showcase many of our talented employees who make everything we do possible! We had nearly 100 people volunteer to help out, which was fantastic to see and really solidified the fact that we have a great team of employees that really care about our company.

At the same time as the Open House we also hosted our annual BEHLEN Dealer Summit in Winnipeg with nearly 60 Dealers in attendance, representing 20 different companies. It was one of our largest Dealer Summits in recent history and was also very unique as we were given the opportunity to showcase our home province, our facilities and most importantly, our people. Our dealers were blown away with our facilities and our staff and that really means a lot to us as a company.

With our newfound innovative mind set and robotic helper I know that we will continue to be a leader in our industry in Canada and around the world.

Sean



# BEHLEN Open House: Putting together an event for 200 people in 21 days

Despite an enthusiastic group of Team Leaders that had been recruited to help pull together the BEHLEN Open House, one couldn't help but feel the sense of worry in the air as everyone gathered for the first meeting on March 27th, only 21 working days before the event was to take place.

The BEHLEN Open House was designed to act as a launching platform to showcase our new robotic welding technology and with a guest list of 200 attendees from all across Canada, including political figures, media and our dealers, we knew that we needed to bring our A game.

Despite the time crunch, the nearly 100 BEHLEN employees from all departments that volunteered their time to help with this event was evidence enough to know that our employees were excited and eager to have this opportunity to showcase their work and our facilities.



Every one of our teams played a crucial role in helping to put the event together. Trevor Veitch's team – Engineering Manager for Frameless Buildings – was at the front line and really blew our guests away, surpassing everyone's expectations of the Open House. Trevor's team consisted of over 40 volunteers and was in charge of organizing the entire plant tour from start to finish.

There was also a lot of behind the scenes work that went in to the planning of this event like organizing food, figuring out where to put 200 external guests and make it look nice, getting audio visual equipment, controlling the flow of traffic and parking, getting the robot to work, cleaning up the plant, photography and so much more!

After circulating a questionnaire to the volunteers of the Open House it was clear that there was no better way to showcase the amount of effort and enthusiasm that everyone put in to the Open House then to let them tell you firsthand, so here are the results:

**When you were first approached to help out with the Open House only weeks before the event date, what were your initial thoughts?**

"OMG! I have to organize all of the tour in only a couple weeks ... followed by ... who can I add to my team to make the tour as successful as possible?" – Trevor Veitch – Engineering Manager for Frameless Buildings and Plant Tour Team Leader for Open House.

"I was excited about the idea of improving and organizing the plant to make it look and run better." Jon Mitchler – Material Processing Operator.

"I get to look nice for a day! BEHLEN promotional things will help give us business and in turn more work for me!" – Kayla

Merke – Sheet Metal Fabricator and volunteer for Parking and Assisting Presenters.

"Curious as to how BEHLEN Industries would present the factory to the people who come from far destinations." – Lucas Brown – Material Processing Operator and volunteer for Parking and Assistant to the Versagraph.

**Why did you want to help out with the Open House?**

"I wanted to volunteer so I could see who we make our buildings for and to show off women in trades." – Kayla Garrett – Welder and volunteer for parking and SCI station.

"I felt honored as I have not even been with BEHLEN for a full year, it made me feel like part of the BEHLEN family." – Nadine Kozakevich – AG-STOR Customer Service Representative and Internal Food and Refreshment Team Leader.

"BEHLEN is my place of work and I'm proud of the company. I was honored to represent BEHLEN." – Matthew Sisson – Production Welder and Tour Guide Assistant for Open House.

"Share the knowledge that I know with others and to help our and feel good about my job." – Jamie Jones – Metal Fabrications and Tour Guide for Open House.

"I have 24 years at BEHLEN and am proud of our work place!" – Wes Pringle – Project Manager and Tour Guide for Open House.

"This was a huge deal for the company, and I wanted to help make the event a success. We had a great group of people leading the teams, and a huge volunteer list. It was very apparent to me that the event would be a success."



Warren Clark – Health & Safety Manager and Parking & Security and BEHLEN/Westman Employee Leader for the Open House.

**What was your favorite part of being a volunteer for the Open House?**

“Making a difference within the company.” – Dillen Critchlow – Press Operator and general volunteer for Open House.

“Interacting with representatives from outside the company. I’m proud of what we do and enjoy telling people about it.” – Bill Kehler – Manufacturing Manager and Tour Guide for Open House.

“Seeing the reactions on the guest’s faces when they see the amazing equipment that BEHLEN has to offer.” – Lucas Brown - Material Processing Operator and volunteer for Parking and Assistant to the Versagraph.

“Working together with management.” – Tim Villers – Set Up Person and Open House Presenter.

“Working with others from different departments and the lunch was great!” – Jon Mitchler - Material Processing Operator.

“Being able to experience the enthusiasm of the presenters and the pride they take in their work. Also the commitment of the entire tour group team to ensuring all the guests got the most out of our tour.” – Trevor Veitch - Engineering Manager for Frameless Buildings and Plant Tour Team Leader for Open House.

As a presenter at one of the stations, describe how it felt to be able to have the opportunity to show the community and visitors from all across Canada what you do every day and

why it is important?

“It was exciting and gave me a sense of pride in what we do and my job.” – Alecia McLeod – Welder and Presenter for the finish weld area and rimco.

“It felt good to show off the machine and that our company invests in new technologies and makes our customers notice we’re moving ahead.” – Derek Jackson – Voortman Operator and Presenter for the Voortman.

“I felt very proud to work for a company like this.” – Darcy Koshowski – Lead Hand Welder and volunteer for parking and OCTOPUZ booth.

“It felt great to show off our machines and departments.” – Tim Villers – Set Up Person and Open House Presenter.

The feedback that we received both internally and externally about the Open House has been fantastic! In fact, when we asked our employees what their biggest obstacle of the Open House was, no one really seemed to feel that there were obstacles aside from the obvious short time frame and juggling the event with regular working duties. When we asked our employees if they had any additional comments the majority replied with “when is the next Open House?” and “We should do this more often!”

So, how do you pull off an event for 200 people in 21 working days? You have an awesome and passionate team of employees that care about their careers and enjoy having a chance to show off what we do. A big thanks to all of our employees at BEHLEN for their efforts in making this event a huge success and a big thanks to the entire management team for supporting their people as they participated in the BEHLEN Open House!





# The BEHLEN Dealer Summit

The results are in and the 2015 BEHLEN Dealer Summit was an absolute success! Of course, Mother Nature's cooperation was greatly appreciated as she graced us with beautiful weather for the duration of the summit. However, she can't take all of the glory. As it turns out, our dealers didn't mind coming all the way to the prairies.

The Summit kicked off with a couple of meetings and then a dinner at the CEO of WGI Westman Group's house, Paul Cunningham. The dinner was a great networking opportunity for our dealers to mingle with not only BEHLEN employees, but employees from all of our sister companies as well.

The next day we boarded the bus from Winnipeg to Brandon where we attended the Open House and had the opportunity to meet more of our awesome employees and check out our updated facility. To finish off the evening everyone joined together at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights for dinner and a tour.

On the final day of the summit, guest speaker Dr. John Izzo taught us about what makes a great leader and then we all took the afternoon off to enjoy in some activities. In traditional fashion, we closed out the summit with the Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner where we recognized our Dealers for their hard work and sales.

