



## OmniSource Uses Eriez® 5-Star Service® to Repair Four Scrap Drums; Quick Turnaround Keeps Recycling Centers Operational



Founded in Fort Wayne, Indiana, more than 65 years ago, OmniSource Corporation has grown to become one of North America's largest processors and distributors of scrap and secondary metals.

OmniSource's 70+ collection and processing facilities are mainly located in the Midwest, Southeast mid-Atlantic regions of the United States. The operation includes 11 operating shredders that provide the capacity to process 7 million tons of ferrous scrap annually, and more than a billion pounds of nonferrous metals.

Two of those facilities located in Smithfield, North Carolina, and Johnson City, Tennessee use Eriez Scrap Drums to help produce the high-quality ferrous scrap products for foundry and steel-mill melting applications, a primary market for OmniSource. The scrap drums operate 24/7 under harsh conditions, so it is not uncommon for the drums to need routine repairs and upgrades. That's when OmniSource relies on the Eriez® 5-Star Service® Center for quick turnaround and quality assurance.

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ASR Processing Plant Supervisor  
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Both the Smithfield and Johnson City facilities use two Eriez Scrap Drums for identical functions: to separate ferrous material from the residual scrap that comes from the shredders. The shredders can handle a variety of scrap, from automobiles to household appliances, according to Jon Kunze, ASR Processing Plant Supervisor for OmniSource.

"Each facility has a primary and secondary drum magnet to agitate and separate the ferrous material that comes out of the shredders," he says. "Copper, wire, aluminum and everything else falls into separate bins. The scrap drums were purchased from another company and have been in use since 2004."

"These scrap drums are very expensive pieces of equipment," Kunze observes. "Anything that causes downtime needs to be addressed, so you want to take the unknown out of the equation. That means having the assurance that your equipment is in good operating condition."

According to Kunze, each pair of scrap drums produces approximately 15,000 tons of ferrous output per month, a heavy workload that causes wear and tear on the internal drum bearings. Kunze says

maintenance personnel can handle some routine work on the drums, but bearing replacement and other upgrades are performed by the Eriez 5-Star Service Center.

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The four scrap drums were repaired one pair at a time, to eliminate the need for processing downtime, Kunze says. In fact, the drums were upgraded during the time OmniSource was making major upgrades to its own operations. “The drums were sent out the same time we were replacing the entire downstream equipment on each system, so we did not experience any downtime,” he says.

“After the drums arrived at Eriez, the 5-Star team tore them down and sent me pictures so I could see the problems and what needed to be replaced. Once

we agreed upon the repairs, they kept me informed about the progress and completion schedule,” Kunze says.

Eriez’ 5-Star Service Center offers regular equipment checks, in-plant certifications and detailed reports, all to help customers minimize equipment problems and achieve maximum productivity, notes Eriez 5-Star Service Center Manager Jim Lasko. “Checking equipment on a routine basis can identify equipment problems before they occur and reduce production downtime caused by broken equipment,” he says.

“Our 5-Star team is ready to do whatever it takes to address customers’ issues and limit costly downtime,” Lasko explains. “We use original OEM parts, remanufacture equipment to original specifications and offer ‘as new’ warranties. The fully-staffed service center employs trained technicians plus the machining, fabricating and welding capabilities necessary to rebuild all Eriez equipment quickly and accurately.”

The OmniSource drums were given a thorough analysis, according to Kunze, during which several issues were discovered. “The report came back and indicated the shells were fine, but

bearings had seized onto the shaft of one drum and the shaft was not rotating. That repair work was done along with replacing some of the wipers, couplings, bolts and other parts. We also had the drums sandblasted and painted.”

Over the course of eight weeks, all four drums were repaired and repainted and shipped back to the Smithville and Johnson City facilities. They were placed back into production as OmniSource was completing its system upgrading at both recycling centers, according to Kunze.

“The entire process of getting the repairs done at the 5-Star Center was great,” says Kunze. “We had the confidence that when we turned this equipment back on, it would work. We were not disappointed.”

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Established in 1942, Eriez is a global leader in separation technologies. Our commitment to innovation has positioned us as a driving market force in several key technology areas, including magnetic separation, flotation, metal detection, and material handling equipment. The company’s 900+ employees are dedicated to providing trusted technical solutions to the mining, food, recycling, packaging, aggregate, and other processing industries. Headquartered in Erie, Pennsylvania, USA, Eriez designs, manufactures, and markets on six continents through 12 wholly owned international subsidiaries and an extensive sales representative network. For more information, visit [www.eriez.com](http://www.eriez.com).

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