



Sun Electrical and Instrumentation

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Photo By: Don Kadair

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Revenue: \$29,650,000

Change from 2011: ↑ 32.4%



What they do: For the first two decades of its 34-year existence, Sun Electrical and Instrumentation did a respectable but modest business as a small electrical shop with about 10 employees and annual revenue of around \$1.5 million. Then 12 years ago owner Riley “PeeWee” Berthelot decided to embark on a political career—he is currently West Baton Rouge Parish president—and sold the company to his sons, Todd and Toby. Though barely out of their teens at the time, the young Berthelots put Sun Electrical on an aggressive path toward expansion, both sectorwise and geographically. Today the company has 250 employees and does major commercial and industrial projects throughout Louisiana and seven other states. Among its major clients are Southern University and LSU, including projects at Tiger Stadium and Alex Box Stadium. The company has also diversified into residential solar projects and disaster relief.

What went right: Rapid growth has been a constant at Sun Electrical for the past 12 years. But 2012 was a particularly strong year for the company because several major contracts came together at the same time, according to Vice President Corey Templet. Those included: Baton Rouge Magnet High School, Live Oak High School, a new student union at Southeastern Louisiana University, and a new student recreation center at Nicholls State. The company also did more than \$3 million worth of disaster relief work last fall after Hurricane Isaac, including pumping the floodwater out of Plaquemines Parish. “Our disaster response work is totally unrelated to our electrical contracting,” Templet explains. “But our bonding capacity is such that we’re able to take advantage of those kinds of projects.”