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June 2015 Newsletter



## Project Spotlight: Upstate Shredding: 9,000 HP Shredder Motor Installation:

Formed in 1996, Upstate Shredding, LLC is the largest, privately-owned scrap metal company in New York State. [Read more...](#)



## Architectural Programming

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## 2015 WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

Delta has been named as one of Central New York's Best Places to Work! In the greater than fifty employee category, Delta was recognized as one of the top six firms at the event held at the SRC Arena & Events Center in Syracuse, NY in May. Firms were ranked based on employee responses to a detailed survey administered by the independent research firm Research and Marketing Strategies, Inc. (RMS). The survey... [Read more...](#)



CENTRAL NEW YORK'S  
**BEST  
PLACES TO  
WORK**

## Creating Value in Healthcare Facilities Part Two

by Gregory Knoop, AIA, LEED-AP, *Director of Architecture*

Our Chevy Chase office recently worked with the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) and the Veterans Administration (the VA is the largest healthcare system in the world) to establish a post-occupancy evaluation (POE) program. The Veterans Administration has developed a pilot POE program that studied sixteen facilities over the past three years. Our project team helped author the standards and were members of POE teams for the first sixteen studies. As a result, our firm gained unique insights into the successes and failures of projects in their first year of occupancy. We apply that knowledge to value engineering (VE) reviews to deliver true state-of-the-industry insight to current projects. This article provides an overview of the POE process and how it can contribute to design and construction success for medical facilities. [Read more...](#)



## Upstate Shredding: 9,000 HP Shredder Motor Installation

# One of the World's Largest Industrial Shredders



**Project Owner:**  
Upstate Shredding, LLC

**Project Client:**  
Upstate Shredding, LLC

**Project Contact & Phone #:**  
Adam Weitsman  
President  
607-687-7777

**Construction Completion Date:**  
April 2015

**Professional Service Completion Date:**  
April 2015

**Delta Project Manager:**  
Erich T. Reichard, PE,  
LEED Green Associate

Formed in 1996, Upstate Shredding, LLC is the largest, privately-owned scrap metal company in New York State.

The project at Upstate's Owego, NY facility enhanced shredding capacity and capability by providing electrical and structural upgrades that accommodated VA 9000 horsepower motor.

The electrical design included the installation of a new 4,160 volt feed to a 1,500 kVA transformer. This new 4,160V service supports the upgrade of an existing 6,000 horsepower motor to a 9,000 horsepower motor. The electrical design also included a 2000 amp Motor Control Center (MCC) branch circuit wiring, lighting, control wiring and cable tray design. Delta also coordinated with New York State Electric & Gas to provide the over current protection settings for the electrical distribution system that were necessary to provide system reliability for the Owego site.

Structural design included modifications to the building structure and foundations. Civil design included site grading and paving.

This project also included an arc flash hazard study of the Upstate Shredding electrical distribution equipment. Delta entered the one line diagram into the SKM Power Tools for Windows analysis software to calculate the arc flash hazard levels at the equipment identified on the provided component list.

## Creating Value in Healthcare Facilities Part Two...



Gregory Knoop, AIA,  
LEED AP, Director of  
Architecture

Our Chevy Chase office recently worked with the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) and the Veterans Administration (the VA is the largest healthcare system in the world) to establish a post-occupancy evaluation (POE) program. The Veterans Administration has developed a pilot POE program that studied sixteen facilities over the past three years. Our project team helped author the standards and were members of POE teams for all of the first sixteen studies. As a result, our firm gained unique insights into the successes and failures of projects in their first year of occupancy. We apply that knowledge to our designs and other services like value engineering (VE) reviews to deliver true state-of-the-industry insight to current projects. This article provides an overview of the POE process and how it can contribute to design and construction success for medical facilities.

The POE process looks at a building that is built and occupied to discover the successes and challenges for both corrective action and to evaluate best practices for future projects. The general findings of a POE study focus on evaluation of the following issues in newly occupied facilities:

- Functionality
- Building integrity
- Customer satisfaction
- Compliance with codes, guidelines, legislation, and regulations

The POE process is similar to third party value engineering as a review that usually spans several weeks and involves the following steps:

- Develop POE work plan
- Analyze archival data
- Conduct site visit
- Perform analysis
- Submit report
- Add to database

The growing potential here is that real results from a POE analysis of a project or a portfolio of projects can be used to better inform design using recent data. If that process is combined with the input of medical service providers and administrators, the design team and any advisory VE team can provide better quality solutions for future projects based on lessons learned.

This is exactly the work OKKS/Delta has recently done with Strategic Value Solutions, Inc. on two recent studies for VA Medical Centers in California and Kentucky. For these medical projects, that were approximately 300,000 SF and 1.5million SF, teams of experts created scenarios for saving tens of millions of dollars and also proposed adaptations to the designs that would improve the functionality, saving energy and increasing the potential effectiveness of the care given in these buildings.

Healthcare buildings are not simple boxes filled with doctors, nurses, and patients. Hospitals have evolved rapidly over the course of the last century. Hospital buildings are a part of a process. They are truly enormous machines. The undertaking of funding, designing, constructing, commissioning, and licensing large healthcare projects is complex and involves many persons, often for many years. For such an undertaking, POE case studies can provide invaluable state-of-the-industry findings for designers. In parallel, value engineering can be an important peer review process that can provide transformative guidance to projects and the process. The OKKS/Delta team is part of the vanguard that has been working with industry leaders on POE and VE to create smarter healthcare facility design into the future.



Chevy Chase office performed Post Occupancy Evaluation for Spinal Cord Injury Center for VA Milwaukee by designer PRA, LLP



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[www.deltaengineers.com](http://www.deltaengineers.com)

## Delta...Ranked one of the best places to work!



Delta has been named as one of Central New York's Best Places to Work! In the greater than fifty employee category, Delta was recognized as one of the top six firms at the event held at the SRC Arena & Events Center in Syracuse, NY in May. Firms were ranked based on employee responses to a detailed survey administered by the independent research firm Research and Marketing Strategies, Inc. (RMS). The survey measured the importance and overall satisfaction with a wide range of company work environment factors such as quality of management, opportunities for professional growth, and compensation and benefits.

Anthony Paniccia, President & CEO remarked, "We are humbled and honored to receive this award. We are proud that our employees have validated and confirmed our efforts to create a positive and growth-oriented workplace." Delta is proud to be an active member in all of the regional and professional communities that it serves and looks forward to celebrating its fortieth anniversary next year.

Delta is an ISO 9001:2008 certified company founded in 1976 with 118 full time employees who provide a wide range of architectural, engineering, and land surveying services to clients throughout the United States. Delta is headquartered in Endwell, New York and has satellite offices in Vernon, New York; Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania; and Chevy Chase, Maryland.



*Pictured above: Sandy Baker of RMS presented the award to Anthony Paniccia, President & CEO with James McDuffee, Vice President & COO accepting on behalf of Delta.*

*Pictured to the right: Several of the many dedicated Delta Crew who make our culture better were able to attend and enjoy the morning at the awards ceremony. Back row left to right, Kim Collavo, James McDuffee, Anthony Paniccia, Maxwell Bendert, and Jamie Striley. Front row left to right: Aaron Falkenmeyer, Colleen Mulrooney, Kristy Scales, Chris Maby, and Kelcie Bimmler.*



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## Architectural Programming



Jeffrey L. Stafford, PE,  
Director of Facilities

When one hears the word programming, computer software comes to mind. Mind numbing lines of code that most people don't understand that can be completely fouled up by a missing comma, semi-colon, or forward slash. Quite frustrating really.

Architectural programming, on the other hand, is a process used to seek and define a problem. The word 'problem' in this context is similar to what an attorney would use for the word 'argument.' It is not arguing in the sense of two people angrily disagreeing about a certain topic, but rather how the attorney develops a message and support for his position. The word 'problem' with regard to architectural programming means seeking to fully understand the wants and needs of the owner/end user and how that compares and contrasts to related costs and schedules.

The programming process doesn't just happen. An idea or thought of how a building or a space should appear or be organized takes time to establish, and if it is to be done well, it needs to be done by a professional who knows how to lead people through this process. Through the programming process, a client should become aware and enlightened of ideas, operational logistics, code implications, and related costs that will directly impact what, how, when, and where the new building is being constructed.

If you want a design done right, regardless of size, a certain amount of time needs to be set aside for programming. Most times, it is a challenge to try and convey the need and importance for this effort to clients, their initial perception is that it "delays" the progress of the construction documents. Overall, the opposite is true. Programming that is well conceived will clearly define what is to be designed and save significant time and money with regard to rework over the course of the project. Programming occurs on every project, it is just a matter of whether it is done upfront when it is helpful for everyone involved, or if it is done while the construction documents are being developed. The latter is the source for all sorts of problems and frustrations.



Einstein said, "If I were given one hour to save the planet, I would spend 59 minutes defining the problem and one minute resolving it."

Programming is more art than science, relational than technical, and empirical than finite – and because of that, it is difficult to quantify and define its value as an integral part of the design process. It is kind of like trying to explain why it is good to be loving and truthful to a young person...it just is!

**"If programming is problem seeking, then design is problem solving."**

Problem Seeking, 4th Ed., Pena and Parshall

We love to design. Design is color to the eyes and music to the ears – but programming is the source of the palette and harmony that gives a project relational connection and fulfilling accomplishment.



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