



## Keeping It Cool In An Aerospace Building

### JM insulation hard at work at the Advanced Manufacturing & Aerospace Center on the University of Texas El Paso campus.

There's a brand-new building on the University of Texas El Paso (UTEP) campus, with a variety of JM insulation on the project. AM Insulation Inc. installed all the mechanical and HVAC insulation on the 94,000 square foot project.

The Advanced Manufacturing & Aerospace Center (AMAC) is an \$80 million, five-story building with many hands-on areas including approximately 35,000 square feet of lab space. The UTEP campus is known for engineering programs, and with lots of aerospace work in the El Paso area, building the AMAC makes good sense.

"UTEP has partnerships with Boeing and Lockheed Martin, plus we have military bases near here and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin has a location nearby so it's great having local engineers work on these projects," said Richard Armendariz, Chief Financial Officer for AM Insulation. "It's not just classrooms in this building, it will also serve as a dedicated space needed to advance in cutting edge research."

#### New Job, Familiar Location

Getting to work on the AMAC project is especially close to Armendariz's heart, as he is a UTEP graduate. He and his business partner, President and CEO Allison Foster (also his sister) started AM Insulation before he graduated, and one of their first projects was at the UTEP satellite energy plant. He said he loved being a student and a contractor all on the same campus.

#### PRODUCT

Microlite® FSK, Micro-Lok® HP, Zeston® 2000 and Thermo-1200®

#### LOCATION

University of Texas El Paso campus

#### INSTALLER

AM Insulation Inc.





From left to right: *Daren Mieles* – Sundt Construction, *Richard Armendariz* – AM Insulation, *Rick Armendariz* – AM Insulation, *Norma Torres* – Distribution Int'l – El Paso, *Dawn McDaniel* – Johns Manville

When the opportunity to work on the AMAC building came up, they were excited. AM Insulation is part of the state's HUB (historically underutilized business) program, for minorities and women business trade organizations, and the UT system encourages HUB contractors to bid on its projects.

"We worked on a few other jobs with the mechanical contractor before this one was ready, and it was a good experience," Armendariz said. "The same GC, Sundt, and mechanical contractor were also recently awarded another building at UTEP, the Texas Western Hall. It will be strictly classrooms, and AM Insulation will get to work on that as well."

### Insulation Work

AM Insulation installed JM pipe cover throughout the AMAC building for domestic water and, and hydronic heating hot water supply and return. Armendariz said there are larger-sized pipes and ducts in the building to accommodate all of its needs.

"With a building like this, the need to keep the labs in a climate-controlled environment, require more moving air. With larger pipes and ducts, the proper insulation needs to be installed" he explained. "So for our part, the pipe and the ducts are big."

Crews installed Microlite® FSK duct wrap, as well as Micro-Lok® HP pipe insulation for the domestic hot water and heating hot water. AM Insulation also used Zeston® 2000 PVC covering (in white) on 90-degree angles, and JM

Thermo-1200® Calcium Silicate on high density inserts for the heating hot water.

"We always use the Microlite. It's really the only duct wrap we use," Armendariz said. "It's the best out there in my opinion. The FSK never comes apart from the insulation and it's easy to cut and apply. There's never an issue of quality."

In addition to the mechanical and HVAC insulation that AM Insulation installed, the UTEP AMAC project also has JM fiberglass building insulation and some JM roofing products (installed by other contractors).

### AM Insulation

A family-owned company, AM Insulation started in 2019. The company serves the El Paso, Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Dallas areas, as well as parts of New Mexico, and is quickly growing.



Richard and Allison's father, Rick, is the operations manager for the company. He has more than 45 years of experience in the insulation industry, so the kids grew up around it and "always had one foot in the door.

"He was working for a company that was ruined in a hurricane and asked my sister and me if we wanted to start an insulation company. So, we did," Richard said.

Five years later, AM Insulation employs about 20 insulators and focuses on work for education, higher education, hospitals and government.

**For JM customer support or technical assistance, call 1-800-293-3393.**



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