



George H. Knost III

Arkel International LLC

George H. Knost III is the President of Arkel International LLC, a multi-faceted company based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana that provides services to governments and commercial companies world-wide. Arkel has been conducting business in Iraq since 2003, at which time George became its President. Under George's leadership, Arkel has steadily grown business in Iraq serving the U.S. Government, major Oil & Gas and international professional services companies. Arkel performs work throughout Iraq and maintains significant full service facilities at its Rumaila Camp with more than three-hundred full-time employees. George has devoted a good portion of the past sixteen years of his career to develop business in Iraq having made hundreds of trips to all areas of Iraq while establishing long-standing relationships with numerous Iraqi and foreign national government and business leaders. George has established the relationships, and has acquired an intimate knowledge of conducting business in Iraq, that have enabled Arkel to successfully navigate the ever-changing business landscape in Iraq.

Prior to becoming President of Arkel George held progressively responsible management positions with the firm beginning in Kenya in 1993 as Commercial Manager on a large sugar factory project. At the close of this project George was promoted to Regional Manager in which he managed business ventures including the sale of barge-mounted power plants to Kenya Power, delivery of engineering studies in Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania, and successful bidding for services in support of U.S. forces in Somalia. As part of this business success, George assisted in structuring financing directly with major U.S. and South Africa banks.

In 1996 George co-founded Pipeline Technologies, an ongoing business established to build, own, and operate chemical pipelines in Louisiana. Also during this period George managed other businesses including a major Rose Farm investment project in Kenya, and engineering, construction and logistics programs in the Horn of Africa with contract value exceeding \$100,000,000.

In 1999 under George's leadership, Arkel developed business through a start-up company in Nigeria to capture a market share of the West African Oil and Gas developments. Through this company, George successfully negotiated contracts in support of several on-shore and off-shore developments greatly enhancing the value of these assets for future exploration, drilling and production. Also during this period, George implemented a strategy and led negotiations with ExxonMobil for two fields on behalf of Oriental Energy. This strategy enabled optimum production at these fields and development of projects ranging from an \$80,000,000 plant expansion in Kenya to negotiating and delivering engineering studies in Uganda.

In 2003 Arkel began work in Iraq with George as its President making a successful transformation from private sector business to providing construction and management services to the U.S. Government. George leveraged the experience to achieving successful contracts for services to the U.S. Government in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Chad, Nigeria, Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo, and Arkel has since established a reputation for superb project delivery for the U.S. Government having completed projects world-wide. Arkel continues to conduct successful business in Iraq, primarily in the Oil & Gas industry, with previous and ongoing contracts with British Petroleum, Exxon Mobile, Shell, KBR, AECOM, GE and others.

George travels extensively in the Middle East and world-wide having visited more than eighty countries while acquiring an understanding of and appreciation for many cultures and business practices. George is quite active in AmCham Iraq and other business organizations, and participates in numerous conferences and events in support of Arkel's business. George takes special interest in humanitarian support having donated significant time and company assets toward relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina and other major storm events. George is a graduate of Northwestern State with a degree in International Economics.