



ABT ELECTRONICS CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF GROWTH, INNOVATION AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Family-Owned and Operated Retailer Marks Nine Decades in Business Following Major Expansions, New Customer Experiences and Continued Investment in the Future

GLENVIEW, Ill. – [Abt](#), the nation's largest independently owned, single-location retailer of appliances, electronics, furniture and home goods, is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, marking nine decades of resilience, growth and customer service.

Founded in 1936 when Jewel Abt loaned her husband Dave \$800 to open a small radio store in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood, Abt has grown from a three-person storefront into a nearly one-million-square-foot retail and distribution destination serving customers across the country.

Despite dramatic changes in the retail landscape over the past nine decades, Abt has remained family-owned and operated, continuing to thrive by embracing innovation while staying true to the values that built the business. Over the last several years alone, the company has expanded its warehouse and furniture showroom, invested in employee training and sustainability initiatives, introduced new customer experiences and advanced its digital capabilities, positioning itself for continued growth well into the future.

Today, the company is led by third-generation family members and brothers Mike, Ricky, Jon and Billy Abt, who share the title of co-president and continue to guide the company through a period of significant growth and transformation.

"Reaching 90 years in business is an incredible milestone and one we never take for granted," said Jon Abt, co-president of Abt. "Our grandparents built this company on the belief that taking care of customers comes first. While the products, technology and shopping habits have changed over the years, that philosophy has remained constant. We are grateful to our loyal customers, dedicated employees and community for helping make this milestone possible."

The anniversary comes at a time of continued investment and expansion across nearly every facet of the business.

In recent years, Abt has made significant investments across its operations and showroom experience. The company completed a major warehouse expansion, adding more than 430,000 square feet to its distribution and logistics operations and bringing its total campus footprint to nearly one million square feet, while also unveiling a 30,000-square-foot expansion of its furniture and mattress showroom. The expanded space features premium furnishings, elevated room vignettes and a dedicated Design Center where customers can customize pieces for their homes. Abt enhanced its specialty retail offerings through renovations to the Time Store and TUMI boutique, introducing upgraded displays, modern lighting and immersive design elements.

The retailer has continued to innovate beyond the showroom as well. Ask Bolt, Abt's AI-powered search assistant, helps customers navigate thousands of products online with real-time recommendations, while Abt Air, the company's expedited shipping service, allows mid-size appliances to reach 40 markets nationwide in as little as one to two days. Abt introduced new attractions throughout the store, including an 85,000-year-old cave bear skeleton in its atrium,

further reinforcing its reputation as a destination that blends shopping, education and entertainment.

Abt has invested in its people and long-term sustainability efforts. Through Abt University, a hands-on training program housed in a custom-built facility, employees receive technical training and career development opportunities that support the company's workforce strategy. In 2021, Abt unveiled a new 30,000-square-foot on-site recycling center, more than doubling the size of its previous facility. Today, the company recycles 95 percent of its own waste and diverts millions of pounds of material from landfills each year.

While much has changed since 1936, Abt's commitment to customer service remains at the center of its success. Nearly 90 percent of the company's business comes from repeat customers or referrals, a testament to the trust the retailer has built over generations.

"Many businesses don't get the opportunity to celebrate a milestone like this," said Mike Abt, co-president of Abt Electronics. "What makes us most proud isn't just reaching 90 years, it's continuing to grow, innovate and invest in the future while remaining true to who we are. We believe the best chapters of Abt's story are still ahead."

Today, Abt employs nearly 1,800 people. The company has been named one of the Chicago Tribune's Top Workplaces for 16 consecutive years, a reflection of its ongoing commitment to employee development and workplace culture.

As it celebrates 90 years in business, Abt remains focused on the future, continuing to invest in its people, customer experience and operations while delivering the exceptional service that has defined the company for generations.

For more information about Abt Electronics, visit www.abt.com.