



The Tri-Tech management team (from left): Jill Chapman-Cox, production manager; Greg Cox, chief operating officer; Brett Stoffel, director of customer service; Paul Acton (on screen), chief executive officer; Amber Earles, director of

project management; Will Livesay, business technology consultant; and Kathryn Lyness, marketing manager. Tri-Tech is celebrating 40 years in business this year.

STEPHEN GASSMAN • *Telegraph Herald*

‘It’s a family enterprise’

Dubuque-based business celebrates 40 years of growth, family ownership

BY BECCA PETERSON • *For the Telegraph Herald*

Growing up, Greg Cox was certain he was destined to work in the family’s software business.

From the age of 10, Cox remembers traveling to installation appointments with his parents and older siblings, who helped input customer data and rental contracts from their hotel rooms.

Cox watched his father, Dave Cox, start the family business, now called Tri-Tech, from the kitchen of their California home. Soon thereafter, the business — and family — moved to Dubuque, where it has grown over the last 34 years.

“It really has always been a part of my life. Once I graduated (high school), it was natural to go straight there full time,” said Greg Cox, now chief operating officer at Tri-Tech. His father serves as chief financial officer.

Greg Cox said he learned about software, retailers, business and life from the mentorship he received from

his dad and brother-in-law, Paul Acton, who is currently chief executive officer at Tri-Tech. Acton is married to Greg

Cox’s sister Stephanie Acton, who is operations manager at Tri-Tech.

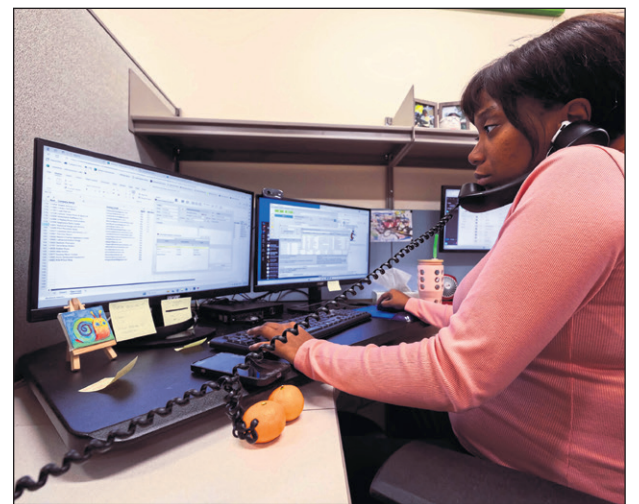
With several children and grandchildren working in the business, Dave Cox says it’s rewarding to see the company he founded support multiple generations of his family.

“It’s more than a business, it’s a family enterprise,” he said.

This year, Tri-Tech, located at 3162 Cedar Crest Ridge, is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Formerly called “Soft Music,” Tri-Tech’s point of sale (POS) technology was initially designed for the music retail industry and evolved over time.

In 1984, Dave Cox started the software company after watching his friends struggle to keep up with

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Sales support associate Roynicka Evans works at her computer at Tri-Tech in Dubuque.

tech review

Flexible solar panel is thin, light and tough while still being easy to mount

BY JIM ROSSMAN
Tribune News Service

I get asked to review a lot of solar generator equipment.

Usually, a company will send a portable power station and a solar panel or two for testing and I end up writing more about the power station than the solar panels.

Today I’m reviewing a 100-watt solar panel from BougeRV, which

is a company that specializes in products for mobile solar energy generation and storage.

The company sells solar panels, portable refrigerators and power stations that are popular with campers, RV enthusiasts and people trying to live a more sustainable life.

BougeRV has several types of solar panels for various uses, and they sent a CIGS panel, which is the latest in solar technology.

CIGS stands for copper indium gallium selenide, which is what help make up the solar collection cells.

CIGS panels are thin and flexible, very light weight and not easily damaged.

The BougeRV Yuma 100 watt CIGS Thin Film flexible solar panel with tape (\$279.99, <https://shrsi.com/4e2bh>) got my attention immediately because it was so light and flexible. It comes in a

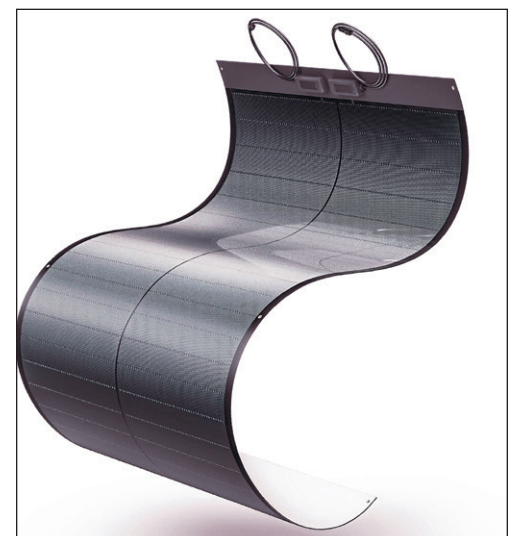
box rolled up, about the size of a yoga mat.

The panel measures 26 inches by 44 inches and it weighs just 4.3 pounds, and it is IP68 waterproof.

BougeRV sells a few versions of the Yuma panel. There are also 200W versions available.

There are two sizes for the 100W panels, I reviewed the compact model, but there is also

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The 100-watt solar panel from BougeRV.

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