



## JASON FOWLER Professional Bio

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Jason Fowler is currently Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer and 50% Shareholder of Bar Source International LLC, a North American based master distributor of specialty and carbon steel bar and tubing products.

Mr Fowler is an accomplished entrepreneur with a successful track record in founding corporations, business ownership and development, product management, marketing, sales and customer service management. He's proven to be a results-oriented, detail-minded executive who has delivered on sales targets, problem solving and strategic thinking, with a solid history of achieving profit plans and shareholder returns.

Early in his career, from 1996-2001, Fowler gained broad industry experience with Kreher Steel, LLC, in numerous capacities with significant achievements. As a young sales rep, he brought in 33% of the company's profits selling carbon, alloy, tool and stainless steel bar to end users and OEMs. As Product Manager of their Specialty

Metal Division, he brought the steel industry new markets. When running the Automotive Airbag Steel Division, he developed 23 different material specifications with Morton Thiocol to hold pressurized gas for fifteen years, and helped redesign the airbag for mass production at a competitive cost with government mandate. *(Jason to correct wording if inaccurate.)*

In 1998, Fowler founded Metcut, Inc, expanding a 3000 sq ft precision cutting business to a 50,000 sq ft steel processor, with \$1.8M in sales at its peak. In 2005, he added a Heat Treating Division. The company was sold in 2009.

In 2003, Fowler founded and served as CEO of iMetals Inc, a privately owned steel distribution company of carbon and alloy bar products as well as stainless and tool steel. In 2005, he added a Foundry Division. Under Fowler's leadership, the ISO- 9001:2000 certified steel distributor grew to \$50M in revenues with 28 shipping locations throughout the U.S. in five years. In May of 2009, iMetals was sold.

In spring of 2007, Fowler was inducted into the University of Illinois at Chicago Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, a prestigious award which recognizes Chicago area entrepreneurs whose achievements have made a profound and lasting impact on Chicago's landscape. In 2008, he was invited to be the honorary guest speaker at the Hall of Fame's 25th Anniversary Banquet Ceremony where he spoke to a distinguished audience about how the graduate Entrepreneurial Program at UIC helped him prepare for the real life corporate battleground.

In 2010, Fowler founded Chicago Steel and Iron, LLC. With 25 shipping locations, it grew to be the largest SBQ Bar importer in the U.S. *(accurate?)* with revenues of \$XXX. *(Jason, incorporate relevant ESMARK details? Which ones? Seepg 2)*

In June 2013, Fowler founded Bar Source International LLC, acquired the assets of Chicago Steel and Iron, and subsequently of Prometals, LLC. Today, Bar Source International is a premier provider of XXXXXXXX *(Jason to capsulize company/products in one sentence, using different words than in opening sentence.)*

A zealous entrepreneur throughout his career, Fowler has also launched numerous other start-up ventures including Focus Logistics, Classic Stone, Mobile Data Software, Signature Bank and more. The keen innovative side of Fowler is what draws customers, employees and suppliers to his side. With over 20 years in the steel business, he is driven by challenges to continued success.

Fowler has held Board of Director positions with Chicago Steel & Iron, LLC, United Steel Group, Cobra Metal Works, Cold Extrusion Company of America and ERA Industries, Inc. His active memberships include Precision Machined Products Association, Forging Industry Association (need 5M in inventory plus 10M in sales for three consecutive years to qualify), Metal Service Center Institute, Investment Casting Institute, American Foundry Society, The National Federation of Independent Business and others. *(Any more?)*

His education includes earning a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University of Illinois, Chicago, *(specify Business School degree?)*, Land Rig Drilling- NOV Houston and Off Shore Drilling- NOV Houston *(specify what these NOV's are, i.e., certifications?)*

Mr Fowler currently lives in Hinsdale, Illinois, with his wife of 17 years and two daughters, age 14 and 12. Favorite family activities include travel, golf, snow skiing and water sports.

**Incorporate any of these points into the Chicago Steel and Iron paragraph?  
Which ones?**

- ESMARK Steel Group (ESG) was founded (by whom?) in November of 2009 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of the privately owned holding company of ESMARK, Inc.
- In November, 2009 the ESG acquired Amtex Steel, a precision processing and distribution company specializing in flat rolled and bar products. This company was renamed Chicago Steel & Iron, LLC.
- The ESMARK Steel Group had sales revenue of \$600 million in 2010 and is forecasted to be at 1 billion by 2012-year end.
- The ESMARK Steel Group will be purchasing more service centers on a cash basis.

**There is probably more detail here than is necessary on a Bio (versus a resume).  
Jason to determine which details should be left out.**