



Industrial Molds Group

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Ameri
mold 2016

Industrial Molds will be exhibiting at **Amerimold 2016** in Novi, MI - June 15-16. Come see us at booth #442



See future newsletters for link to register.

Industrial Molds Group Helps Bridge Skills Gap

We hear a lot about how manufacturing is suffering from a "skills gap" that makes it difficult to find people who have specific manufacturing skills that we need to keep our businesses growing. Now, Industrial Molds Group is doing something about it. We believe that making young people aware of manufacturing and the opportunities that it presents, is key to their future and ours!

On January 14, Industrial Molds Group hosted a group of 30 middle school students and three teachers from Rockford Christian. "Our goal is to raise awareness of the opportunities in manufacturing in Rockford," said Tim Peterson, vice president of Industrial Molds. "When they think of manufacturing we want them to think about the high-tech, innovative and exciting environment in a production manufacturing facility such as Industrial Molds' plant."

Many of the students participate in Rockford Christian's Robotics Club. We were able to

showcase our robotic machining and EDM manufacturing cells so that they have a better understanding of how automation works in a real-world environment.

One surprise is that there was a mix of young men and young women as part of the tour group. It was great to introduce more young women to the opportunities that manufacturing presents to help broaden our prospective employee base and achieve greater diversity in manufacturing.

This was the second tour that Industrial Molds has sponsored. Previously students from Jefferson High School toured the plant to see first-hand the exciting world of manufacturing. We hope to continue these plant tours to get young people interested in the variety and types of jobs that manufacturing offers.



Industrial Molds Invests in New Automated EDM Cell

Investments in cutting edge technology and state-of-the-art equipment continues at

Industrial Molds. According to Andrew Peterson, Production Supervisor, the company will be completely revamping their automated EDM machining cell by replacing the current system with two Sodick AG60 EDM machines and an Erowa ERS robot system that will feed both machines.

Industrial Molds in Rockford, IL, currently has three fully automated machining cells: one in EDM, one in carbon cutting and one in high-speed machining. The advantage of automation is shortened lead times and a decrease in human errors. "In order to fully leverage our investments in automation, we've focused a lot of time and energy in designing and implementing robust systems and procedures" explains Peterson. "We operate a paperless system so everyone on the production floor is working off the same data rather than each mold maker doing it their own way," Peterson explained.

"We have been able to build higher quality molds in shorter lead times because of our continuous investments in equipment, technology and processes improvements" says Peterson. "We have developed a system that brings consistency and repeatability to the mold manufacturing process, making everyone a winner."





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