

Industrial Molds Newsletter



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Industrial Molds Invests \$1.7 Million in New Machinery

Industrial Molds continues its dedication to improving capabilities and capacity to provide our customers with better time-to-market, and molds designed to increase productivity while reducing overall costs to manufacture. We're announcing a \$1.7 million investment in new machinery to accommodate our growth and the increased requirements of our customers. Additionally, Industrial is investing another \$300,000 in a complete renovation of its 43,000-square-foot facility to create a more efficient layout for the various departments, create better work flow, and to make space for the new, larger machinery.

Andrew Peterson, Production Supervisor for Industrial Molds, says that a lot of planning went into the decision as to what machinery to purchase as well as the building renovation. "We basically looked at the areas in which we had bottlenecks and that's how we determined the machine purchases," he explains. "We've been really busy, but sometimes it's better to stop and take a look around to determine how we can create better work flow to help us maintain good scheduling to meet lead times. We made these purchases to help us attack the bottlenecks in production."

A Micron HSM 400 ULP 5-axis electrode cutting machine, that will double Industrial Molds' electrode

production, is also being installed to meet demand in that department. The company currently has one electrode machine. The two machines will be connected to a single robotic palletizer that will hold 200 electrodes for lights out manufacturing. "The robot is large enough to feed both machines, with installation scheduled for late November," Peterson states. "Sometimes we were using our steel cutting machines to do electrodes, so adding the Micron frees up our steel-cutting machines to do the jobs we need them to do."

Industrial Molds also invested in an OKK HM1000S - a 4-axis horizontal mill with a 40"x 40" dual table that will be installed in the company's mold base department to replace an older machine. The OKK HM1000s has a 60-tool changer, and provides higher RPMs to get the job done faster. "We do about 90% of our mold bases in house due to the longer lead times we sometimes encounter from mold base suppliers," Peterson says. "Plus we can oversee the quality. The OKK will be a tremendous boost to our mold base department."

Three new Haas CNC milling machines - a V4 and two V2's are being installed in Industrial's prepping department. "We prepare all of our blocks - square them up - and make simple components," explains Peterson. "By establishing a prepping department we get the jobs started quicker which helps reduce lead times. These additional machines will increase our capacity in that department by 33%.

Peterson notes that the decision to create a specific department for preparing cavities and cores, which then get moved to the High-Speed Machining (HSM) department, helps Industrial maintain a more efficient work flow. "The machines in our prepping department are designed for drilling and tapping, where the high-speed machines are not designed for that type of work," says Peterson. "It's more efficient and helps us shorten lead times and be more responsive to urgent customer requests for repairs and ECOs."

Industrial Molds also purchased two grinders to use for finishing work after heat treating. Peterson credits Industrial's "strong sales team" for the

company's growth over the past two years, with new projects from current customers and also the acquisition of new customers in new markets. "These new machines will help us increase capacity to meet demand from our growing customer base," he adds. "At Industrial Molds, we believe that our success is contingent upon our customers' success, which is why we continue to invest in our business."



Look for more of the new machines at Industrial Molds in November and December. In the meantime please pardon our dust.

Advantages of Made in the USA:

We continue to hear of many cases of intellectual property theft. One of the primary ways companies in foreign countries steal the IP of U.S. manufacturers is by making duplicate molds. Recently, on a LinkedIn site, there was a discussion about how prevalent this problem is in foreign countries. "They make one mold for us and another for themselves, and can often have a duplicate product on store shelves before we do," complained one engineer from a consumer products company.

Stolen IP can cost companies tens of thousands - if not millions - of dollars in lost product sales, going after the IP thieves through the foreign legal system, and

in product recalls due to inferior materials.

We just celebrated Manufacturing Day here in the US, and were reminded of the many advantages to making products - and the products that make those products, i.e. the molds you buy - in the USA. Mold made in the USA, especially here at Industrial Molds, are designed and built to US standards with certified raw materials, and guaranteed made to your exacting specifications.

At Industrial Molds, all of your IP is protected and guaranteed safe with us. You might think that molds made in the USA are expensive, but they're not nearly as expensive as losing your intellectual property!

Sincerely,
Industrial Molds

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