



## Industrial Molds Group



### Industrial Molds, Inc. Newsletter January 2012

Industrial Molds will be exhibiting at the Plastec West Show in Anaheim, CA on February 14-16, 2012. Go to [www.PLASTECwest.com](http://www.PLASTECwest.com) and enter in promo code: XG for FREE registration. Come on out and visit Industrial Molds at booth# 4049.



### A Supplier You Can Depend On!

From Tim Peterson, Vice President, Industrial Molds Group

We're hearing a lot these days about supply chain security and how critical this is to the OEMs that depend on its suppliers for its outsourced products and components. More and more, supply chain managers for these major OEMs are looking for "weak links" in the chain. Those suppliers that don't make the grade can find themselves eliminated from the supply base.

Recently, there was an article in the Wall Street Journal about Boeing Co. and the many production struggles it had with the 787 Dreamliner jet. Most - if not all - of those problems and delays in getting the Dreamliner to market were caused by supply chain disruptions and interruptions. Now, Boeing is examining its supply chain as it seeks to boost its output by 60% over the next three years, according to the Wall Street Journal article. Currently, Boeing is "sitting on a backlog of 3,500 commercial jets, valued at more than \$270 billion."

It's pretty hard to think that one small (less than \$50 million) supplier somewhere in the world could be the cause of \$270 billion in products to be delayed, but oddly enough it happens. That's why so many OEMs are "stress testing" their supplier to see if they have the capacity, the capability and the staffing to meet the demands of an increasingly busy manufacturing industry in the U.S. Boeing has added some 200 engineers and other supply-chain examiners to ensure that the company meets demand for its products.

The automotive industry is also becoming more

aware of its supply base, their individual suppliers and those suppliers' capabilities to meet the demands of the industry. We at Industrial Molds do a lot of work for the automotive industry, the packaging industry, industrial markets, and more. We understand the need to stay on top of our own company's capacity requirements, capabilities in machine tool technology and software technology, and our staffing so that we can meet all our customers' mold requirements on time, on budget and with the quality they expect.

It's often not easy to be a "David" supplier serving the "Goliaths" of these huge multi-national companies. Their expectations are high. But it is those expectations from our many good customers that have pushed us here at Industrial Molds Group to be more creative and innovative, invest in our capabilities and our staff, and become an asset to our customers.

We know that the OEMs are only as good as their supplier base. Your success is our success, and vice versa. We're always ready to meet your requirements, and welcome any suggestions you may have that will make us a better supplier to you over this next year.

Our goal is always to make Industrial Molds Group "A Supplier You Can Depend On!"

Don't forget to check out [www.iWarriors.org](http://www.iWarriors.org) to see what you can do to help.



## Industrial Molds: Lean Efforts

### Working to be a better supplier

Industrial Molds is making an effort toward Lean manufacturing principles. We have started rearranging our production floor to follow the 5S principles of Lean, which includes:

- 1) Sort** - We're beginning the process by sorting the useful from the unnecessary, making sure that the only things remaining in the work area are those tools, parts and those items important to doing the job.
- 2) Straighten** - It's an old adage, but one that we're finding pays off - A place for everything and everything in its place. Putting tools where they can easily be accessed by our moldmakers and save time, and moving machinery so that it is accessible to those who work with it every day will help to be more organized and save time.
- 3) Sweep (and shine)** - While we've always made an effort to keep our production floor neat and clean, we're taking extra steps to keep each area free of unnecessary items and be more aware of the cleanliness of our facility.
- 4) Standardize** - Routine clean becomes a way of life at our facility, with planning and scheduling of preventative maintenance, keeping a good inventory program so that we always have the tools that are needed when they are

needed, and generally being more organized in every area.

**5) Sustain** - We're hoping that we will eventually sustain our 5S efforts as a way of doing business, and continue to make efforts to identify areas of wasted steps, wasted time and wasted items that we use every day, and make sure these are dealt with in a timely manner.

It's our goal at Industrial Molds to be a Supplier of Excellence to all of our customers, and meet or exceed their expectations of our molds and the services we provide. We hope you'll find our efforts as rewarding to you as we know they will be to our company.

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**Sincerely,**

Industrial Molds, Inc.