

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

FM Corporation

Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions

Industrial Hygiene Makes a Difference at FM Corporation

Client Profile:

FM Corporation, located in Rogers, Arkansas, manufactures high and low pressure foam parts. Plastics parts and components are produced utilizing two molding processes, structural foam molding and injection molding. The parts are then painted, assembled and run through various other finishing processes. The company employs 245 personnel working three shifts.

Situation:

Over the last three years, FM Corporation has needed assistance for various industrial hygiene and environmental issues. They contacted Scotty McKnight, a Project Manager with Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to assist in the resolution of these issues.

Solution:

AMS' Scotty McKnight worked with FM Corporation to go through the steps required to solve the issues. Scotty also provided guidance and assistance in securing a Technology Transfer Assistance Grant (TTAG), which allowed FM Corporation to change its regulatory status to a "synthetic minor source." In another project, Scotty provided technical assistance in evaluating a new process to determine the proper personal protective equipment required to ensure the health and safety of the workers involved. By using Scotty's expertise in the area of chemical safety, FM Corporation was able to make informed decisions on how to use a new product safely without impacting production. Scotty's recommendations and guidance were key factors in these decisions.

Results:

- * Produced cost savings of \$4000.
- * Saved \$300,000 in material costs.
- * Increased investment of \$280,000 in plant equipment.

Testimonial:

"Thank you for the great effort you put into our facility, as you know environmental regulations makes it difficult for a U.S. firm to compete in the World market. By changing our status from a Title V Major Source to a minor synthetic, we were able to use the money that would have been spent on expensive pollution control equipment and invest it in process equipment. We were able to retire our out-dated molding equipment and invest that money in machines that make us more competitive around the world and keep our local work forced employed. Thank you Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions. I would (and have) recommend your services to anyone. Well, except maybe our competitors."

Ellen Dey, Safety Manager

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