

WITTMANN Helps Westfall Technik Start Up New Chicago Molding Plant in Six Months

Leading Global Company Uses WITTMANN Robots and Auxiliary Equipment for Medical Molding Applications

With over 2,000 employees, 1 million square feet of manufacturing space, 450 molding machines and 19 locations worldwide, Westfall Technik is one of the fastest-growing injection molding and tooling companies in the world. In 2021 the company was ranked 44th on the Plastics News Injection Molder's ranking, with annual molding sales of over \$200 million.

When the company was looking to open a facility in the greater Chicago area in 2021 it chose the former MGS Manufacturing Group, Inc. plant in Antioch, IL. The plant, which had been closed for over a year, was the perfect location for Westfall as it was looking to open a molding facility to serve the medical market in the Midwest. Many leading healthcare and pharmaceutical companies are headquartered in the greater Chicago area.

Roy Boyd was hired as General Manager of the new plant. He had a history of working in medical molding, having been with MGS, All West Plastics and Nypro in the past, and had worked at the very plant that Westfall was now purchasing. Boyd was charged with getting the plant up and running with new employees, machinery, and equipment, and he had to do it in a hurry. "Westfall's company slogan is 'All In', and like everything they do, they were all in on this project," he said. "We took a shuttered, brownfield plant from an empty building to a state-of-the-art, full production molding facility in just six months."

Machines, Robots, Auxiliaries, and Integration

When deciding on what machinery and equipment to purchase for the new facility, Boyd said for robots and auxiliaries, it was an easy decision. "I have worked with WITTMANN robots and equipment for over 20 years in my career," he said. "They were our preferred supplier for a lot of reasons, not the least of which was their service. They were with us from day 1, helping us integrate their robots and auxiliaries into our molding machine cells."

In the new Chicago plant, Westfall is running 15 injection molding machines ranging from 55-280 tons. Three Class 8 cleanrooms with ISO



Westfall Technik's Antioch, IL plant uses WITTMANN robots and sprue pickers for consistent, reliable parts removal.

13485 certification house molding cells making medical diagnostics and lab ware components. A wide variety of materials are used including commodity PP to engineering grade materials.

Westfall has numerous WITTMANN sprue pickers in operation at the plant, as well as more sophisticated WITTMANN robots. In addition to needing consistency in picking parts out of the molds, Boyd cited WITTMANN's product availability as crucial. "As we all know, sourcing machinery, equipment and materials over the past two years has been difficult," he said. "Ramping up during the global pandemic was a challenge. We needed to get everything quickly. WITTMANN not only had the robots and auxiliaries that we needed, but they also were willing and able to send their technicians here to our plant to integrate their equipment and train our operators, onsite."

Boyd mentioned John Pirkl of Graduate Sales, WITTMANN's sales representative in the area, as being instrumental in helping Westfall Technik get up and running. "All of the WITTMANN equipment has performed very well," he said, "and the support we got during installation from both WITTMANN, and John, has been exceptional."

➤ (Continued from page 1: Westfall Technik Start Up New Plant)



MANN provides," he said. "Their equipment is designed to work well and communicate with other brands of molding machines."

Future Growth

Starting with two employees and an empty building in May 2021, by December 2021 Westfall Technik had 25 employees, 15 molding machines, ISO 13485 certification, and most importantly, a lot of new product orders at their new Chicago plant. But they are not stopping there.

"We have the capacity to run more than 30 molding machines in our plant," said Boyd. "Based on Westfall Technik's aggressive growth strategy, I expect we will be adding new machinery and

Besides WITTMANN robots, Westfall Technik is also using WITTMANN temperature control units, dryers, granulators, gravimetric blenders and feeders, and material loaders.

Communication Capabilities

As a global organization, Westfall Technik strives to standardize on its machinery, molds, and business practices as much as possible. This includes a goal of moving towards Industry 4.0 in its future capabilities. The company has IQMS ERP systems in place and implemented worldwide in all its plants.

"All of our machinery and equipment needs to communicate," said Boyd. In the Chicago plant, WITTMANN auxiliaries including temperature control units and dryers are connected to non-WITTMANN molding machines, providing real-time data that is easily accessible. "This is another big advantage WIT-

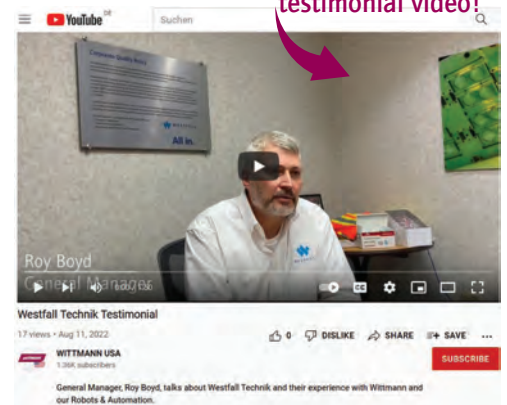


WITTMANN auxiliaries communicate with non-WITTMANN molding machines to provide real-time data

equipment here soon. Westfall has already invested significantly in this plant and will continue to do so."

Growth plans will also include WITTMANN robots and auxiliaries, said Boyd. "We are already in the process of receiving 5 new robots with supporting auxiliary equipment from WITTMANN," he said. "As our business grows, we will continue to work with WITTMANN. They are a company like ours, we both have high expectations for both quality and service."

Click to see their testimonial video!



New! WITTMANN SmartPlus Servo-hydraulic Molding Machine Available in the USA

Originally introduced in 2021 at the Fakuma show in Germany, the new WITTMANN SmartPlus is a servo-hydraulic machine which stands out by its high level of cost and energy efficiency, as well as repeatability. This affordable, high performance machine will be available to customers in the USA in early 2023

Thanks to the use of proven technologies and carefully selected options, short delivery times and an excellent price-perfor-



mance ratio have been made possible for this machine. A special feature of the SmartPlus is the new B8X control system with system components developed in-house. These enable a higher frequency, shorter response times and a higher repeatability rate for parts, with the same operating comfort as before and the familiar visualization concept. Of course, the SmartPlus also offers the KERS energy recovery technology originally developed for the EcoPower. The SmartPlus machine is available with clamping forces ranging from 60 to 180 t.

WITTMANN is Going Green!

WITTMANN USA Plant Expansion is Underway; Includes New Solar Project

As part of WITTMANN's worldwide growth, the company's US headquarters in Torrington, CT are undergoing another expansion. This represents a major investment, as the company is expanding its Plant 1 facility by over 9,000 ft².

The additional space will be used to manufacture automation systems and to run complete injection molding machine workcells. Additional structural improvements are underway, which include a solar power system consisting of 539 panels, with a total annual capacity of 322.9MWh.

Plant1 Expansion Highlights:

- Moving the Automation Manufacture to this new space allows continued expansion of the robot assembly and machine shop
- Ground breaking began this month (August 2022)
- Solar Project installation will be in October 2022
- Solar project is 280KW (DC) and will generate 322.9MWh in the first year
- The system has a 5.3 year payback period
- WITTMANN USA will receive a federal tax refund for installing this system, and will also be awarded with a renewable energy credit revenue from the utility for any excess energy produced
- Over the next 20 years the system should produce a net cash flow of over \$1 million USD



Preliminary Engineering



WITTMANN USA's new solar project will consist of 539 panels with a total annual capacity of 322.9MWh

Ground breaking is under way!



WITTMANN USA Robot Updates

Plastics processors continue to increase their use of robots and automation, a trend that grew with the workforce challenges posed from the past few years of the global pandemic. WITTMANN has helped the industry meet this challenge with the introduction of our latest robot controller, the R9. This controller, along with its unique, easy to use Quick New programming, are gaining popularity in the USA and are helping molders improve their productivity, and profitability.

Now Available in the USA

WITTMANN's WX and W9 Series of robots are the first new line of WITTMANN robots since the R8, which has been sold in the USA since 2008, and the Pro Series, which has been sold since 2015. The WX and W9 robots are sold with the new WITTMANN R9.1 Controller, which includes the new and improved Quick New programming tool.

WITTMANN has developed comprehensive new training tools to go along with the new line of WX and W9 robots.

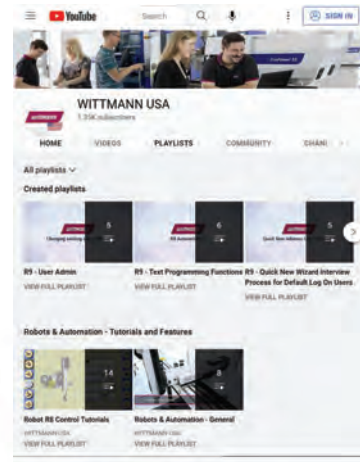
In-Person Training classes include:

- R9 Control: Advanced Text Programming
- R9 Control: Robot Operating and Use of Program Wizard

In addition, our new R9 training videos are now available on our YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/c/WITTMANNUSA/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=3

Visit our website or contact us directly for more information on our newest line of robots!

 Click to see R9 training videos!



Upcoming Events



DON'T MISS OUR UPCOMING FREE WEBINARS!



Advancements in the Ease of Robot Programming for Injection Molding Machines

Jason Long, National Sales Manager- Robots & Automation
Monday, August 15th at 2 pm ET

[Register Now!](#)

Practical Solutions for Resource-Efficient Production in Injection Molding

Tuesday, September 13th at 11 am ET

Presented by:

[Register Now!](#)



David Sharp
USA Divisional Manager
Injection Molding Machines
WITTMANN USA



Christian Glueck
Product Management
WITTMANN BATTENFELD GmbH



Richard Heckbert
Senior Plastics Engineer
WITTMANN USA



Marco Moser
Process Engineer
WITTMANN BATTENFELD GmbH

LSR 2022



Multi Component Molding of LSR – from Micro to Macro

September 13 – 15
Irvine, CA

Wolfgang Roth, Applications Engineering
Wednesday, September 14 at 11:30 am

Molding 2022



Value "Added" and the Top Entry Robot: Do More than Pick & Place Molded Parts for Superior ROI

Joe Varone
Tuesday, November 8th at 4 pm
Charlotte, N C

Come See Us at the K Show!

WITTMANN Technology Hall 12 | F23
WITTMANN BATTENFELD Hall 15 | C06
OA Hall 15 | -CE10




It's all WITTMANN.



19 – 26 October
Düsseldorf
Germany

WITTMANN USA Training

Visit Our Website for Schedule and Details, including for Our **New R9 Training Classes**

➔  Check out our Training/Tutorial Videos on our YouTube Page

Classes are back at the Polymers Center of Excellence (PCE) in Charleton, NC!



WITTMANN USA Inc. Personnel News

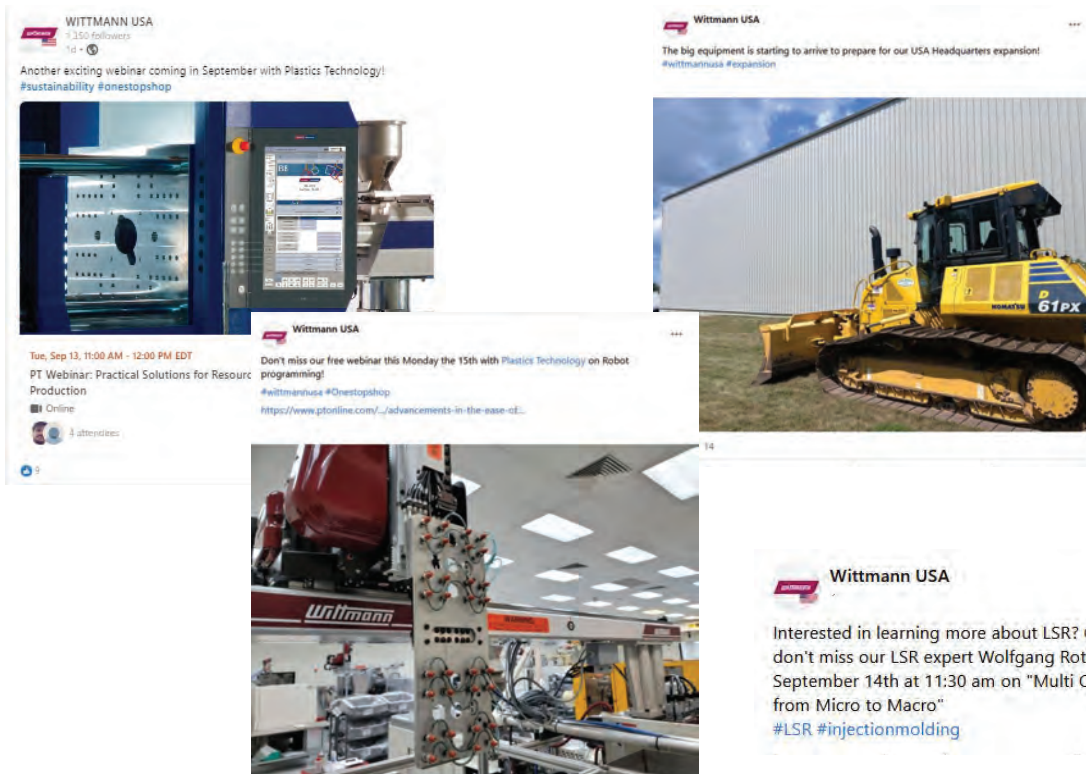


Emilio Pimentel,
Inside Technical Sales
Material Handling & Auxiliaries

Emilio has recently joined our USA Headquarters in Torrington, CT as Inside Technical Sales for our Material Handling & Auxiliaries Division. He comes to WITTMANN with 9 years of experience including customer service, shipping coordinator, and technical assembly.

Connect With Us on Social Media!

Make sure to connect with WITTMANN USA on our social media channels! Here is some of our recent activity:



 facebook.com/WittmannUSA

 linkedin.com/company/wittmannusa

 [Youtube /WittmannUSA](https://youtube.com/WittmannUSA)

 twitter.com/WittmannUSA