

Productivity Inc Robotic Cell Course Work at NDSCS



From left to right: Mike Musenbrock (Productivity Machine Tool Sales Rep), Eric Voightman (Productivity Machine Tool Sales Rep), Steve Johnson, Link Thompson and Don Engles.

Productivity Inc, the Midwest's leading distributor of machine tools, was chosen to supply North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) with a robotic cell in their machining technology center. The cell consists

of a RoboFlex® Conveyor System (CS) using a FANUC M10iA robot, a Haas SL-20 lathe and Haas VF-2 mill. This grant is the result of an educational initiative started by the state of North Dakota called the "Workforce Enhancement Grant." A portion of this grant was issued to the North Dakota State College of Science to place a robot in their machining technology center. The robot will be placed in a configuration that is similar to those cells that we provide to our customers. As part of NDSCS 2-year machining degree, this robotic cell will become a part of the curriculum at the school. The students in this program will learn basic robot operations along with the current course work of the program. NDSCS Department Chair, Steve Johnson, is planning on running some production parts from Bobcat in this cell so the output from it will be a good representation of what these students will encounter when they are through with school and

join the manufacturing workforce. Productivity's involvement in such an event is not new since Productivity is a strong supporter of all the regional technical colleges, providing training support, demonstrations, tooling applications and school discounts on CNC machines.

RoboFlex is Productivity's exclusive line of pre-engineered automation packages that utilizes FANUC robots to automatically load and unload

machine tools. RoboFlex packages are designed to meet the demanding requirements of job shops, with short to long part runs, and multipart changeover.

Productivity has several lines of RoboFlex including the Conveyor System (CS), the Pallet Switcher (PS), the Pallet Transfer (PT) and the Value Package (VP). Most recently, Productivity has expanded its Robotics and Automation division to accommodate the growing need to lower manufacturing costs in today's competitive industry.

For more information on Productivity or on RoboFlex, please go to www.productivity.com.



Merit Enterprises, Inc. - Progress Update

Merit Enterprises had tragedy strike on the morning of November 28, 2008, when a fire broke out in one of the production areas of their plant. The fire took place over several hours and consumed almost the entire plant. Six different fire departments with over 70 firefighters fought the blaze and Merit is thankful that no one was injured.

The Fire Marshall has completed his investigation and was unable to determine the cause of the fire due to how hot (close to 2,000 degrees in some areas) the fire burned and how completely it consumed the building.

Clean-up efforts have moved forward and a majority of the shop has been completed. The only areas left are the production lines.

Merit continues to look at options moving forward. They are exploring leasing space, buying space, buying an existing finishing shop, or building at a new site. Their intention is to come back and stronger than ever.

Merit has been working hard to place each of their customers with other shops to service their needs. Merit's temporary location is 360 Third Avenue South, Suite One Isle, MN 56342. Their mailing address and phone number remains the same: PO Box 238, Isle, MN; (320) 676-3141.

Merit would like to thank all of those who have expressed their concern for the Merit family. They will keep everyone updated on their progress.

What's Up, Doc?

Concept Machine Tool, Inc. is pleased to announce the hiring of Joe Peltier as service technician specializing in barfeed installation and repair.

Jet Edge, Inc. recently released a new brochure highlighting its precision waterjet cutting products. The brochure features Jet Edge's precision waterjet cutting tables and waterjet intensifier pumps.

In addition, Jet Edge, Inc. is now posting used waterjet equipment for sale on www.jetedge.com.

Profile Companies, Inc. has expanded into their current operation which is 2.5 times larger than the former facility. The 72,000 square-foot facility gives Profile the opportunity to add a complete wood working facility, in addition to expanding the core business of metal finishing. The larger facility provides ample space for fabricating, assembly and storage capabilities.

Do you have an announcement you would like to post? Contact Amy Slettum at amy@mpma.com and get your news published in the next issue of the *Scratchpad*.