An E-newsletter from WITTMANN BATTENFELD USA

news connection
Spring 2021

The Show Must Go On!

Despite NPE 2021's Postponement, WITTMANN BATTENFELD Continues to Advance Their Cutting Edge Technology and Release New Products

Even after the unprecedented year of disruptions and uncertainty that was 2020, WITTMANN BATTENFELD Inc. has a lineup of new and improved products that they are announcing in anticipation of the postponed NPE 2021.

"Even with all the chaos of the last year, we have continued to work as hard on improving our product line as always, and we have some really exciting product news to share with the industry even without a trade show to do it at," says Crystal Gagnon, Marketing Communications at WITTMANN BATTENFELD, Inc. "We will save our usual showstopper booth displays for when we can all safely gather again in the future, and instead let our product updates speak for themselves this year!"

Of the new products and technologies WITTMANN BATTENFELD is featuring, the highlights include the **new Ingrinder combined injection molding machine** and granulator system, the introduction of **SmartPower for liquid silicone rubber injection molding**, the **new G-MAX 13 granulator**, **CARD dryers**, and the **new R9 Robot control**. The industry-leading Wittmann 4.0 technology also continues to advance, with **new firewall standards**, a free **OPC UA connection**, and **TEMIone**.

For a more detailed description of what's new across each of WITTMANN BATTENFELD's product divisions, see below:

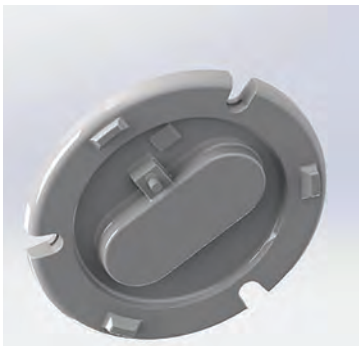
Injection Molding Machines

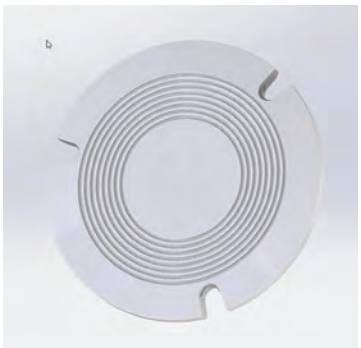
WITTMANN BATTENFELD's impressive lineup of IMMs has pushed the limits of connectivity in the past year, with new integrations happening in new ways to make their customers' processes easier, more efficient, and more profitable. These integrations and 4.0 improvements have come in a multitude of ways:

1. SmartPower for LSR (liquid silicone rubber)

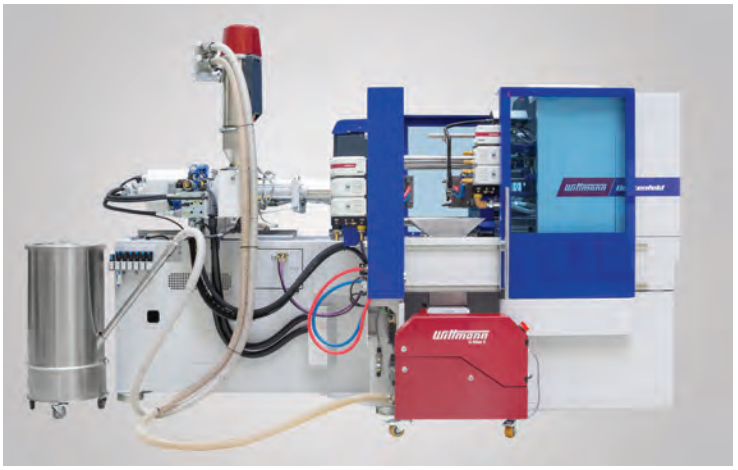
One of the most significant updates WITTMANN BATTENFELD has made in the last year was the advancement of their SmartPower technology into liquid injection molding. This allows for unprecedented ability for cross-linking at low temperatures. The application was demonstrated by WITTMANN BATTENFELD recently with LSR material from DOW's SILASTIC™ LTC 9400 series to produce the "Drinky" drink manager, a complex product that requires a PCB (printed circuit board) fitted with battery cells to be inserted into the mold and overmolded. The low temperatures required for overmolding electronic components and battery cells presented a unique challenge and opportunity for this technology to showcase its ability to optimize even the most difficult of molding processes.

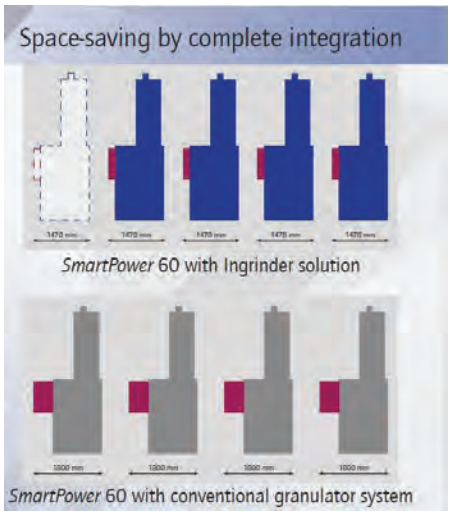
Click here for a video of the SmartPower molding the Drinky.





2. The Ingrinder





Available as a package with the EcoPower (55-110 ton) and SmartPower (25-120 ton) IMMs, the Ingrinder system integrates an advanced granulator and a sprue picker with the IMM itself. The Ingrinder works best as a solution for these smaller IMM models that run together with molds incorporating cold runner technology with a corresponding need for scrapping or recycling sprues. Ingrinder integration provides cost savings through a more efficient grind - faster use

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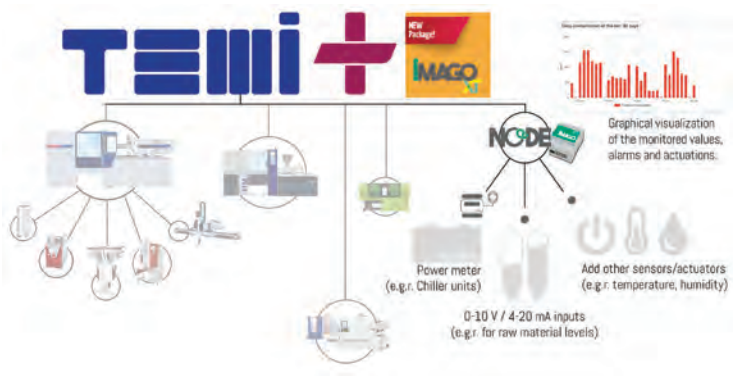
of regrind and less time for hygroscopic materials to absorb water - a smaller footprint - depending on the machine model, users can see a 25% savings in floor space compared to a traditional work cell utilizing a granulator and a robot with guarding - and removing the need for guarding for a picker, provides added safety as well as cost savings. Click here for a video of the Ingrinder.

3.The TEMI



WITTMANN BATTENFELD's TEMI is a ready-to-use, low cost MES solution. Developed in partnership with ICE-flex, the TEMI was designed to bypass many of the barriers and hurdles manufacturers were having with integrating their MES systems with their process. It resides on a separate, pre-installed data server based in the WITTMANN BATTENFELD control cabinet, does not require any external network communication, and is pre-optimized for use with the WITTMANN 4.0 router and WITTMANN 4.0 auxiliary equipment. It is estimated to be available in the US market in May 2021.

4.OPC UA connection

As of April 1, 2020, any WITTMANN 4.0 compatible auxiliary appliances that have been ordered have included the capability to be connected via OPC UA as standard to WITTMANN BATTENFELD IMMs with B8 control systems. This digital connection between processing machines and auxiliaries is a huge advantage for molders needing to make quick changes, analyze their data sets, and keep consistent parameters for processing - all of which have proven critical amongst WITTMANN BATTENFELD customers in the midst of the pandemic and the quick shifts required by it.

Robots and Automation

WITTMANN BATTENFELD has made exciting new advancements in its robot products since the last NPE, including new technologies, and expanded product lines and offerings to meet even more of their customers' needs.

1. New features for R9 robot control

As the industry leading technology and capability present in the WITTMANN BATTENFELD R9 robot control system has begun to spread more broadly across the market, WITTMANN BATTENFELD has continued to add features and improvements to enhance the product. Most of these new features involve making the control even easier to use, including the new "Quick New" wizard programming function and new ergonomic vertical touch screen pendants. Other new features have made it even smarter and more capable of preventing common errors, including the "Replay" troubleshooting features and the incorporation of new anti-collision features, as well as a digital twin simulator to help users better simulate complex processes ahead of time to more accurately predict their outcomes.

2.Sonic Ultra high-speed robots

WITTMANN BATTENFELD's Sonic Ultra high-speed robot series is already a customer favorite for its performance, and continues to be improved upon. With a max acceleration of 65 m/s2 that allows for mold-open times of less than 1 second and sub-10 second cycle times with a payload of up to 15 lbs, the speed and performance speak for themselves. With these ultra high speeds, WITTMANN BATTENFELD saw the need to proactively update the design of the robot to be even more hardy than their other robot models, and so they have created a streamlined and efficient, yet robust new look for their Sonic Ultra series to help them last longer and maintain themselves through the wear and tear created by their impressive speeds.

3.Extended PRIMUS Robot line

The PRIMUS Series of WITTMANN BATTENFELD robots is one of the company's most popular models, given its cost efficiency for pick and place applications, for which this series was specifically designed. Recently, WITTMANN BATTENFELD expanded this series, adding their largest PRIMUS model robot yet - the PRIMUS 48T. The 48T model has a payload of 20kg with clamping forces of anywhere between 20 and 900t, all while maintaining the extremely smooth and quiet operation that the PRIMUS Series is known for.
Click here for a video of the PRIMUS.

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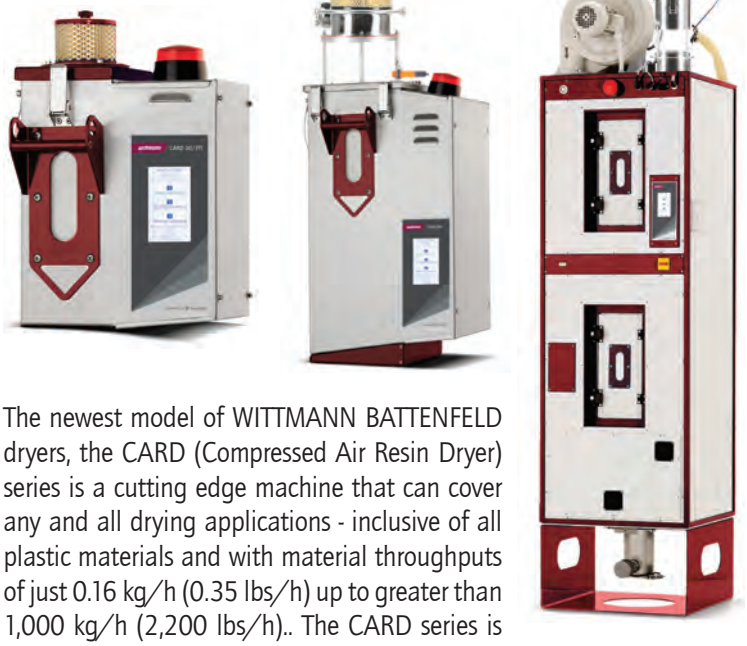
Material Handling Systems & Auxiliaries

A complete range of WITTMANN BATTENFELD material handling systems and auxiliary equipment has seen advancements in recent years, with some of the key new products or product improvements listed below.

1. CARD series Dryers



The newest model of WITTMANN BATTENFELD dryers, the CARD (Compressed Air Resin Dryer) series is a cutting edge machine that can cover any and all drying applications - inclusive of all plastic materials and with material throughputs of just 0.16 kg/h (0.35 lbs/h) up to greater than 1,000 kg/h (2,200 lbs/h).. The CARD series is perfect for any drying application, and comes in seven different models with hopper volumes ranging from 1 liter all the way up to 3,500 liters. Most models are available with the FIT controller, a touch screen HMI allowing for ease of use, data logging via USB or OPC UA, weekly timer and energy efficient usage. The CARD S models in particular come equipped with the FIT controller, as well as temperature controlled, digital compressed air volume regulation.

2. TEMPRO Plus D250 TCUs

WITTMANN BATTENFELD's TCUs have long been the industry standard for quality, and the latest model builds upon that. The TEMPRO plus D250 takes the already cutting edge design and technology of the TEMPRO plus series and adapts it specifically for large consumers. Equipped with radial pumps, the TEMPRO plus D250 offers high volume flow rates for a variety of pressure ranges, while maintaining the popular series features that make it so easy-to-use, including a wide range of customizable options, unlimited purging, and a touch display. Providing both single and dual zone, this model is WITTMANN BATTENFELD's first dual zone direct cooled TCU.

Click here for a video of the TEMPRO Plus D250.

3. G-Max 13 Granulators

Another new product from WITTMANN BATTENFELD's Material Handling and Auxiliaries Division is the G-Max 13 granulator. Completing the existing G-Max granulator series, this model is suitable for in-line recycling of soft to medium hard sprues, ideally suited for grinding materials which are sensitive to heat or parts that are not yet completely cooled, and can be used on injection molding machines with clamping forces of up to 230 tons. The granulator is a three-blade open rotor machine, with automatic belt tensioning, easy and comfortable ability to change out blades when needed, and the important added benefit of a small footprint.

Click here for a video of the G-Max 13 granulator.

4. IACS (Internal Air Cooling System) and MAP (Mold Area Protection)

Two of the newest product lines from WITTMANN BATTENFELD are the MAP and IACS. The MAP is used to prevent condensation on the surface of the mold. This allows for cold water temperatures, below the dew point of the ambient air, to be run year-round without concerns about climate conditions and their impact on your production or the life of the mold. Operated through a FIT controller, all processes are monitored, operation is easy, and any potential errors can be quickly corrected and addressed. The low maintenance MAP is available for use in injection molding and blow molding applications. The IACS improves the quality of blow-molded products by exchanging the internal cavity with cold air during the cooling phase, which reduces thermal stress on the material and shortens the cooling time.

These products are just the beginning of what WITTMANN BATTENFELD has been working on since the last NPE. All of their state-of-the-art products are continuously improved and expanded upon. They invite you to contact them to learn more about how they can help meet your company's specific needs.

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Keeping the Rodents Under Control with WITTMANN BATTENFELD Robots

Leading Manufacturer of Rodent Control Products, Bell Laboratories, Inc. Employs Wittmann Robots to Reduce Cycle Times, Increase Output

Since COVID-19 appeared over a year ago, one problem that hasn't received much attention is a rather unpleasant one: the increase in rodent populations in urban and suburban neighborhoods. The problem has not gone unnoticed for Bell Laboratories, Inc., a molder of rodent control products in Windsor, WI; the company has seen sales increase over 20% in the past year due to increased demand for its products.

Jim Walsh, a Designer/Injection Molding Process Engineer for Bell Labs, says, 'Last March, when restaurants shut down across the country due to the pandemic, rodents lost their #1 food supply from restaurant waste in dumpsters. So, they went out looking for food, and neighborhoods started seeing much higher rodent populations."

With this increased demand for its products, which include rodent bait stations, mechanical traps and more, Bell Labs turned to WITTMANN BATTENFELD to help them better automate their molding processes.

Less Downtime and Higher Productivity

In business since 1974, Bell Labs has over 500 employees and sells its products in over 60 countries. They manufacture their products at their two facilities in Madison and Windsor, WI and distribute directly to the rodent control industry (professionals, agricultural users and to consumers). They run 26 molding machines ranging in size from 110 to 600 tons. Most of their products are molded with recycled PP or PS.

Since they first decided to try automation in 2014, when they purchased their first WITTMANN product (a sprue picker), the company has gone all-in on WITTMANN robots. They now employ 15 WITTMANn robots and are looking at purchasing more.

"When we started with WITTMANN, we thought a sprue picker would be all we needed," said Jim Walsh. "We used it on a couple of our single-cavity cold runner molds, and while it did solve some of our part removal and placement issues, we realized fairly quickly that we needed more sophisticated robots to work with our multi-cavity hot runner molds."

After switching from sprue pickers to WITTMANN robots, the company saw dramatic improvements. "We were having issues with parts sticking in the molds and not dropping out at ejection," said Walsh. "Also, we were seeing parts breaking at the living hinges when dropped onto conveyors. The robots have solved these problems, and more."

Besides realizing faster cycle times due to better part removal, the robots have saved on tool wear due to one ejection cycle instead of three or four due to stuck parts. Also, the robots have saved on downtime due to tool repairs caused by the mold closing on stuck parts.

Additional Benefits

Other functions that Bell Labs uses its WITTMANN robots for include stacking and closing very small mouse bait stations, a function that used to be done by machine operators; and counting the parts dropping into totes.

Another key feature of the WITTMANN robots is their ease of programming, said Walsh. "We find these robots very easy to program and the programs are easy to customize to work on different molding machines and molds," he said. He also mentioned a unique WITTMANN feature, a manifold with tubes that allows for easy greasing of key robot points. "This makes it easy and painless to maintain the robots," he said.

The latest WITTMANN robot that was installed at Bell Labs is a W833, which runs on a large 560-ton machine. This robot features a telescoping Y axis, which allows clearance of the overhead crane that is positioned on the ceiling above the machine.

More Rats, More Robots

Bell Labs is currently in discussions with WITTMANN on purchasing additional robots. The company is specifically looking at adding more **W833** robots for their larger machines.

"Our operators understand how to work with these robots and are very comfortable with them," said Walsh. "As our business continues to grow, we will certainly continue working with WITTMANN to help us with our automation needs."

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WITTMANN BATTENFELD Supports Local Plastics Training and Workforce Development Program

New Training Center Features Brand New WITTMANN BATTENFELD Industry 4.0 Workcell Including SmartPower IMM, W818 Robot, and Auxiliaries

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 17 in Waterbury, CT, a diverse group of Connecticut state politicians, educators, and plastics industry manufacturers celebrated the official opening of a new plastics training center.

The new Manufacturing Alliance Service Corporation (MASC) Advanced Manufacturing Plastics Training Center features a brand-new WITTMANN BATTENFELD SmartPower 35 IMM Workcell, complete with a W818 robot and auxiliaries including a Tempro plus temperature control unit and Aton plus dryer. The workcell is Industry 4.0 ready and is the centerpiece of the new training center.

"We were happy to support this initiative to provide much-needed plastics training opportunities to people in Connecticut," said Brent Strawbridge, Regional Sales Manager – IMM for WITTMANN BATTENFELD. "Our industry needs trained labor to succeed, and graduates of this program will be able to step directly into available jobs at plastics molding companies."

Connecticut state and local officials at the recent ribbon cutting included, from left to right: Fred Dobbins, Plastics Program Instructor; Catherine Awwad, Executive Director, Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board; Neil M. O'Leary, Mayor of Waterbury, CT; Cyndi Zoldy, Executive Director, MASC; Rich DuPont, President, Resource Development Associates; Lynn Ward, CEO, Waterbury CT Chamber of Commerce; Colin Cooper, State of CT Chief Manufacturing Officer; Mark Polinski, President, Forum Plastics.

A Team Effort

The opening of this new Training Center was truly a team effort. WITTMANN BATTENFELD worked in cooperation with Resource Development Associates (RDA) of Watertown, CT and PTA Plastics of Oxford, CT to determine what machinery and equipment would be best suited for this program. Other companies involved in the program included Seitz LLC of Torrington, CT, Forum Plastics of Waterbury, CT, and Three Rivers Community College of Norwich, CT.

The program opens officially in April at MASC, a nonprofit manufacturing-based training organization who partnered with the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB), the City of Waterbury and its Adult Education Program and most importantly regional industry partners. Their facility in Waterbury, where the WITTMANN BATTENFELD machine is located, provides training services for adults, high school students, women, and anyone who wants to learn new skills that provide pathways to apprenticeships and full-time employment.

Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Executive Director of the Connecticut Workforce Development Unit, lauded the partnerships that led to the creation of this new program. "The MASC center is a gem," she said. "We are so proud of the Connecticut manufacturing community for stepping up and helping make this program a reality. It's our hope that we can expand the Advanced Manufacturing Plastics Training Program to other facilities throughout the state."

Filling A Need for Skilled Workers

Rich DuPont is the President of Research Development Associates (RDA), a consultancy that works to provide assistance to manufacturers throughout Connecticut. "We are always trying to identify ways to support our state's businesses, whether it's through training, education, employment, energy management, or continuous improvement," he said. "It's all about workforce development and it is by way of our work for the NRWIB we were able to assist in this opportunity for our state's plastics manufacturers."

Over the past two years, RDA reached out to businesses in Connecticut and noticed that the plastics industry companies in the state said they had very little support, and desperately needed help with workforce development. "We identified the need for skilled labor at these companies, and that need was more urgent than we realized," said DuPont.

RDA set out to connect the state's plastics industry companies with MASC. "MASC had a unique opportunity to work to build a plastics program for training, and build off their current education programs,"

(Continued from page 5 .. Local Plastics Training..)

said DuPont. "Plastics molders including PTA Plastics, Forum, Seitz and others put us in touch with WITTMANN BATTENFELD."

Providing Machinery, Equipment and Support

Rich DuPont has been involved in these types of projects for many years and is impressed with the support and buy-in from WITTMANN BATTENFELD. "WITTMANN BATTENFELD provided donations of its equipment, staff, materials, and more," he said. "They have provided amazing support of this program. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work directly with a leading plastics industry OEM, who is located right in our backyard in Connecticut, and has been so generous with their support."

Over 60 people have already applied to take part in the new plastics training program. Students have been interviewed by MASC Executive Director Cyndi Zoldy and NRWIB representative Kevin Canady and will have the opportunity to learn injection molding, robotics and programming, Industry 4.0 methods and more. Ten individuals are part of the first training program. The program will provide 7 weeks classroom and hands-on training. Graduates will have the skills to be entry-level operators. "Our goal is to build a pool of qualified candidates who can step in and help upgrade the capabilities of plastics companies throughout the state," said DuPont.

Brand-new WITTMANN BATTENFELD SmartPower IMM 4.0-enabled workcell in place at the new MASC Training Center

David Canty, Robot Production Manager is retiring from WITTMANN BATTENFELD after being with the company for 27 years

(Left to Right) Sonny Morneault, VP of Sales; Dave Canty, Robot Production Manager; Duane Royce, VP of Robots and Automation, Dave Preusse, President.

As he describes it, Dave started his career at WITTMANN in 1993 'with an empty building as a machinist making tooling parts.' He then became supervisor of the robot assembly department, and saw unit #1, which was a W322, assembled and shipped from Torrington around December 1993. WITTMANN BATTENFELD USA has now shipped over 9,000 robots and Dave has been involved with almost all of them.

When asked what he remembers most about the past 27 years, Dave says 'the planning of over 7000 trailer trucks bringing our products to customers as shipping manager, hiring and watching the successful growth of many direct employees, and more; but what I most enjoyed during my time here was being responsible for the many building/construction projects in the growth of WITTMANN BATTENFELD. I've seen our location grow from farmland to a 50k sq./ft plant in Torrington. Thank you to everyone that supported me in this 60,000 hour journey at WITTMANN!'

Dave Canty was presented a personalized and unique Walk Down Memory Lane art work, showing pieces of important memories, places and life events.

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Upcoming Events

Our Innovations Roadshow Truck is sanitized and on the road and ready to visit your shop so you can check out our products up close!

Currently making it's way around the Southeast!

EXPERIENCE WITTMANN 4.0
Learn how it can help you increase your productivity!

LIVE PRODUCT DEMONSTRATIONS:

- W822 Robot
- B8 Injection Molding Machine Control
- Drying, Blending and Water Temperature Control Technologies

Contact Us Today for more information:
Crystal Gagnon, Marketing Communications,
Crystal.Gagnon@wittmann-group.com

WITTMANN BATTENFELD Training

All scheduled classes have been canceled until further notice.

Until robot training classes are back on schedule, webinars will be offered to help continue to support our customer's needs. Please click here for the webinars that are temporarily available:
https://www.wittmann-group.com/en_us/training
For questions, please contact:
Jim Daly 860 496-9603 Ext 129
jim.daly@wittmann-group.com

Connect With Us on Social Media!

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

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@WITTBATT
wittmannUSA
wittmann-battenfeld-USA

WITTMANN BATTENFELD Inc. Personnel News

Ivan Melendez

Field Service Technician
Injection Molding Machines

Ivan has recently joined WITTMANN BATTENFELD as Field Service Technician for Injection Molding Machines out of our USA Headquarters in Torrington, CT. He is joining our team with almost 10 years of experience in Cable Assembly, Cleanroom Assembly and Operator Maintenance.

Tracie Karagianes

Controller

Based out of our US Headquarters in Torrington, CT, Tracie Karagianes joined WITTMANN BATTENFELD as the new Financial Controller. She comes to us with over 20 years of experience working in accounting and finance. She loves to travel and spend time with her husband and 12 year old son.