An E-newsletter from WITTMANN USA

news connection
Spring 2025

LSR, material handling demos draw PTXPO attendees

Attendees eager to learn about WITTMANN's all-in-one injection molding solutions were not disappointed by what they saw at PTXPO in Rosemont, Illinois, from March 18-20.

WITTMANN USA once again showed why It's all WITTMANN with a fully integrated LSR work cell and a range of material handling and auxiliary equipment on display, including granulators, a blender, and a dryer. National Sales Manager Jonathan Fowler, also led a live demo on error-proofing central material handling systems.

Attendees eager to learn about WITTMANN's all-in-one injection molding solutions were not disappointed by what they saw at PTXPO in Rosemont, Illinois, from March 18-20.

Attendees discovered how WITTMANN's cutting-edge robots, molding machines, material handling and auxiliaries work together to optimize production.

One of the main attention getters at our booth was a fully integrated liquid silicone rubber (LSR) work cell that produced a utensil holder in WITTMANN's primary brand color. WITTMANN machine partnership with Elmet North America gave attendees a great opportunity to see our LSR capabilities first hand. This partnership drove a lot of great conversations and leads for us to follow up on. The work cell included a servo-hydraulic SmartPower 110 molding machine; Elmet LSR pump; W918 robot with R9 controller;Tempro Plus D250F temperature controller; and Coolmax 5-ton chiller.

Jon Fowler conducted a central conveying demo using Material Traceability, Material Source Supervisor, Coded Source and Lot Management with our M8 Controller and Codemax RFID Coded Manifold. This brought even more good leads from processors looking to learn more from our team. Material handling equipment in our booth included the Gravimax G14 blender, S3net loaders, Drymax Plus 30 portable dryer and two granulators, the S-Max 2 Plus screenless and G-Max 13 conventional blade.

PTXPO is turning into a solid regional show, and we saw an uptick in leads. We look forward to joining again next year.

"PTXPO was a great show with a strong turnout and quality conversations. We made some exciting connections and look forward to exhibiting again next year."

Jason Long
VP of Sales, WITTMANN USA

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ITW facility is U.S. leader in use of Insider solutions

With 30 all-electric WITTMANN injection molding machines running 24 hours a day, five days a week, ITW Deltar's automotive headrest manufacturing facility in Lakeville, Connecticut, is the nation's leading user of WITTMANN's Insider automation solutions.

ITW's 40,000-square-foot production floor features a central drying system and other auxiliaries carefully laid out with fully integrated WITTMANN conveying.

By relying so heavily on WITTMANN's Insider solutions, ITW is realizing:

- Fewer bad parts – with about a fivefold decrease in scrap
- Less material waste
- Less energy use
- Quicker process error diagnoses
- Less production downtime

Starting with one machine off the show floor at NPE 2009, Dunn's facility has purchased only WITTMANN IMM's since then and just added two new EcoPower 110s in March. Six people can staff the facility's entire production process each shift. Mold changes are kept to a minimum, and visual inspection systems spot errors quickly to head off production mistakes.

This ITW facility's investment in its WITTMANN equipment has made it the U.S. leader in use of WITTMANN's Insider package of automation solutions, said WITTMANN USA President Sonny Morneault. "Many of our customers use it, but not at this scale."

Phil Dunn demonstrates the space between work cells at the ITW facility, which is one of the biggest benefits of the Insider molding machine package and L-mount robots..

WITTMANN's Insider solution supplies automation in the IMM, integrating the parts removal robot, conveyor and any other pre- or post-finishing auxiliaries.

Penn State Behrend receives WITTMANN IMM

WITTMANN is honored to consign a molding machine to the Penn State Behrend School of Engineering's plastics lab to support the next generation of plastics engineers.

The consigned Industry 4.0 workcell will include a SmartPower 90 servo-hydraulic injection molding machine, W908 robot with R9 control, Tempro plus D250M Dual Zone temperature controller, Gravimax G14 M primus blender and S3net loaders.. It will be up and running in the plastics lab soon.

Hands-on experience on state-of-the-art machinery is invaluable in shaping future industry leaders, and we're excited to see how students use this technology to innovate and grow.

The WITTMANN machine will be seen during the school's Innovation and Emerging Plastics Technologies Conference June 11-12 at the campus's Burke Center. The annual event spotlights presentations industry experts and hands-on tutorials. Many of the tutorials are held in the college's 10,500-square-foot plastics processing lab, the largest, most comprehensive plastics training lab in the country. On average, more than 200 plastics professionals from 40-plus companies attend the conference.

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Robot assembly, training areas expanded in Torrington

We're making more room at our Connecticut headquarters for robot assembly – expanding our main production line by 46%. This is the next step for us to be even more vertically integrated to support our U.S. market.

While our main goal is to allow for increased peak throughput ,we are taking the opportunity to also increase efficiency and ergonomics. We are:

- Adding more sub-assembly workstations so main assemblies can be split into more sub-assemblies and more people can work on the main assemblies at the same time. This reduces the lines tack time, increasing throughput. This is happening for each main assembly, the X, Y and Z axis.
- Doubling the number of main Y assembly stations.

Our X stations are gaining efficiency and ergonomics with more sub-assembly stations and ensuring that all parts required are closer to the point of use and within direct access of the overhead crane.

Our cable assembly area is also expanding by nearly 50%. This will provide more dedicated assembly stations to ensure each is optimally outfitted for specific tasks. Within this department we are also adding dedicated test stations including computerized cable tester, servo motor assembly test station, and a servo drive test station. Adding more and more stringent quality checks earlier in the process helps drive to a higher standard of quality while improving efficiency.

Meanwhile, our newly outfitted demonstration and training area is also designed to take us into the future while still supporting our past. We put more W8 Series robots into the field than all prior (W7, W6, W5, W4, W3 and W1) series combined.

Even though we are well into the 9 series, demand for 8 series training continues. Our training and demo room offers four 9 Series as well as two 8 Series robots for hands-on training. While we have a theater-style training room, we believe strongly that the instructor leading training is still more effective when augmented with hands-on sessions.

All of our product lines will be represented for use for training and demonstration including a full Wittmann 4.0 work cell with fully integrated IMM, robot, TCU and dryers.

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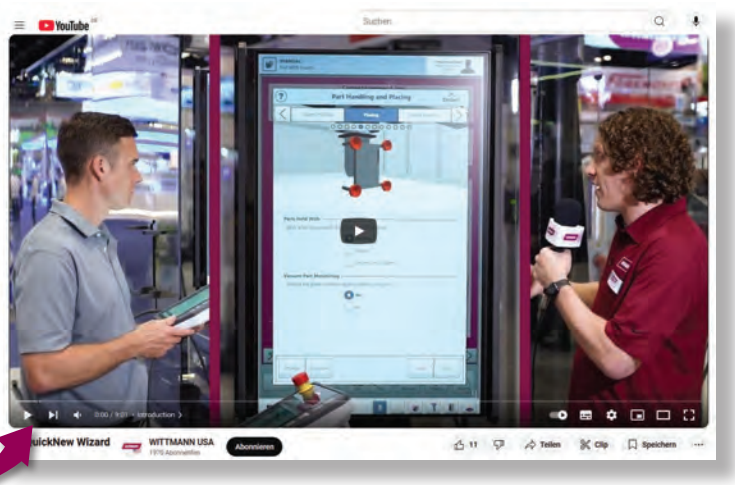
WITTMANN advanced automation solutions lead the way

VPower servo-driven molding machine, with tandem W923 robots with custom pre-molding and post-molding automation for insert molding, Tempro plus temperature controller, Gravimax G76 blender, G-Max Granulator, Aton plus H70-300-VS including conveying package with central loaders, and S3 net integral loaders.

Time and again we hear from plastics industry decision-makers that WITTMANN's one-stop-shop molding and automation solutions are unlike anything they encounter from other equipment suppliers. It's something all of us at WITTMANN should continue to take pride in. By integrating cutting-edge automation, we help manufacturers enhance productivity, reduce labor costs and improve product quality. Our full suite of automation solutions optimizes every stage of the injection molding process: mold insert systems; part cooling, conveying, identification and inspection; cavity separation; post-mold assembly; degating; packaging; palletizing; and more.

Check out how easy robot programming really is!



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By implementing our automation solutions, injection molding manufacturers experience numerous benefits:

• Increased production efficiency: Automation reduces cycle times and eliminates bottlenecks, allowing for higher throughput.

• Improved quality control: Consistent and repeatable automation ensures superior part quality with minimal defects.

• Labor cost reduction: Automated systems minimize the need for manual labor, reducing costs and addressing workforce challenges.

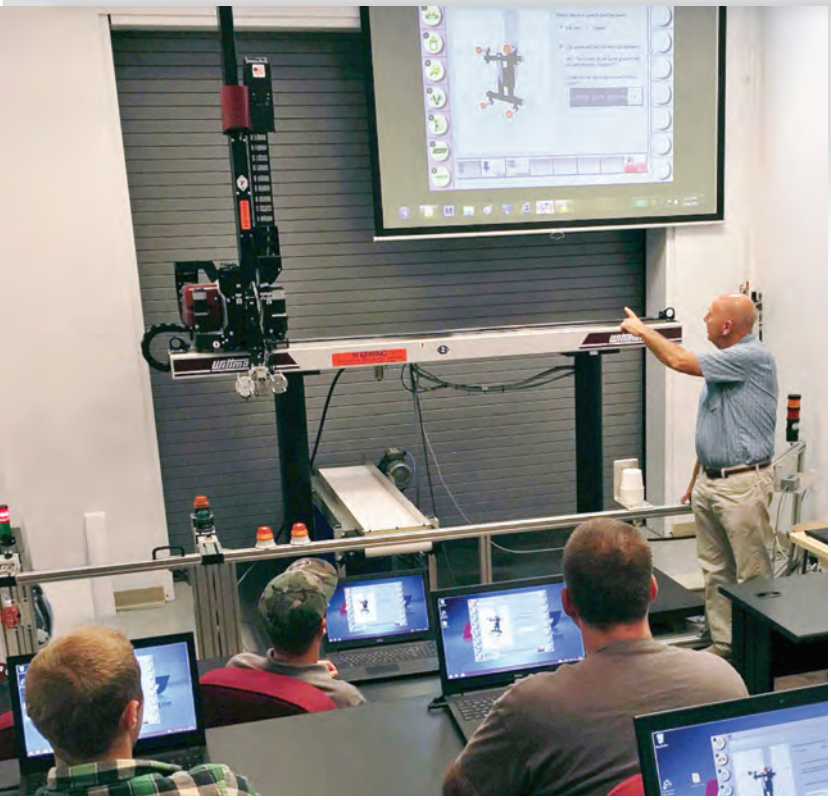
• Enhanced safety: Robotics and automated handling systems reduce human interaction with high-risk processes, improving workplace safety.

• Scalability: Our automation solutions are designed for flexibility, allowing manufacturers to scale production based on demand.

• Designed and manufactured in the USA: All automation systems are designed, built and supported in-house in Torrington, Connecticut. This allows for fastest possible delivery times, no added duties or tariffs and local support.

As industry leaders in plastic injection molding and automation for plastic injection molding, we are committed to delivering innovative, reliable and customized solutions. Our team works closely with clients to assess their needs and implement automation strategies that maximize efficiency and profitability. Together, we continue to make the WITTMANN difference.

WITTMANN's full 4.0 work cell with custom large insert feeding automation. This cell provided a system for multiple large insert sizes (up to 6 feet in length) and assembly verification features with smart sensors to ensure the part was assembled correctly.



WITTMANN USA Training

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

Check out our Training/Tutorial Videos on our YouTube Page

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Product focus: The MicroPower IMM

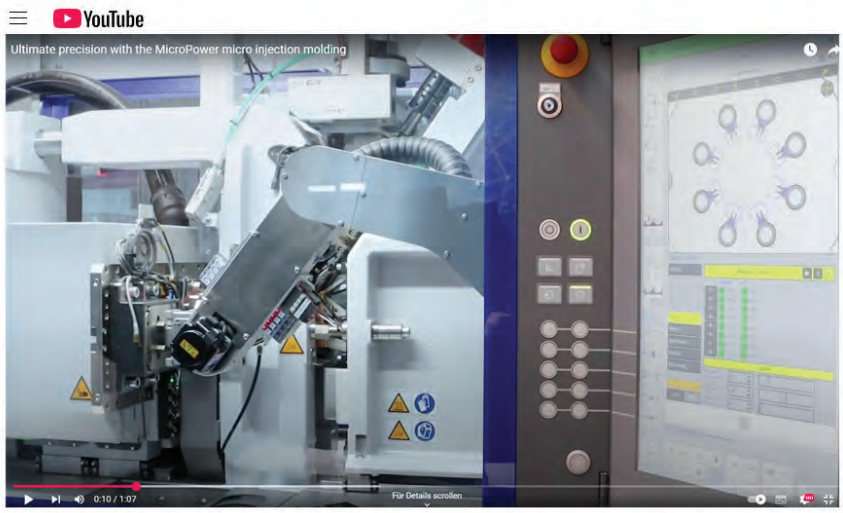
WITTMANN's MicroPower injection molding machine is the epitome of extremely small injection molding.

Utilizing a two-stage screw and plunger design, waste material is minimized to the absolute smallest quantity possible. The machine can run a wide array of plastic materials from standard thermoplastics to high-temperature materials like PEEK, bioabsorbable materials, MIM and LSR.

And, the machine can be equipped with specially designed auxiliary equipment including a camera system, dryer, temperature controller and Class 8 clean room module. With all these modules, molders can be running a complete work cell in no time – without having to talk with additional manufacturers.

For running highly precise nano parts at full production speed, WITTMANN has built a machine unmatched in the industry.

The MicroPower injection molding machine was developed specifically for the economical production of extremely small parts with the highest possible precision and repeat accuracy.



Click to watch Video!

Achieve the highest in cost-efficiency, precision, flexibility and user-friendliness with WITTMANN's MicroPower micro injection molding machine. With shot weights as small as 50 mg, and 100% camera control via image processing integrated in the machines B8 Control, and specialized peripheral equipment and robots for small and micro parts, the MicroPower is your No. 1 choice for small and micro plastic parts!

Probably the smallest business card in the world

The small red plates measure just 8.5 mm square and yet they can fit a complete world map with the full addresses of all WITTMANN production plants worldwide. At the Fakuma and Compamed trade fairs, they were produced live on a MicroPower machine in a 4-cavity mold produced using 2PP 3D printing.

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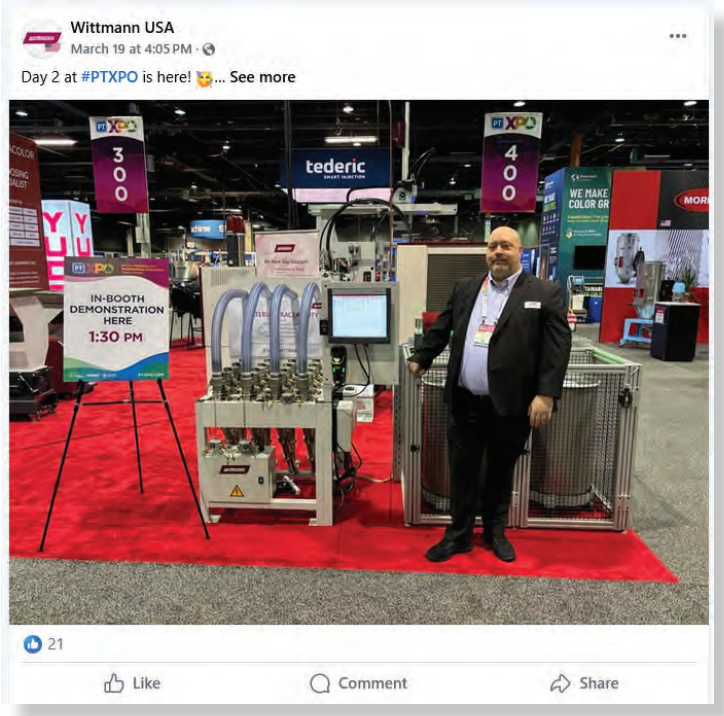
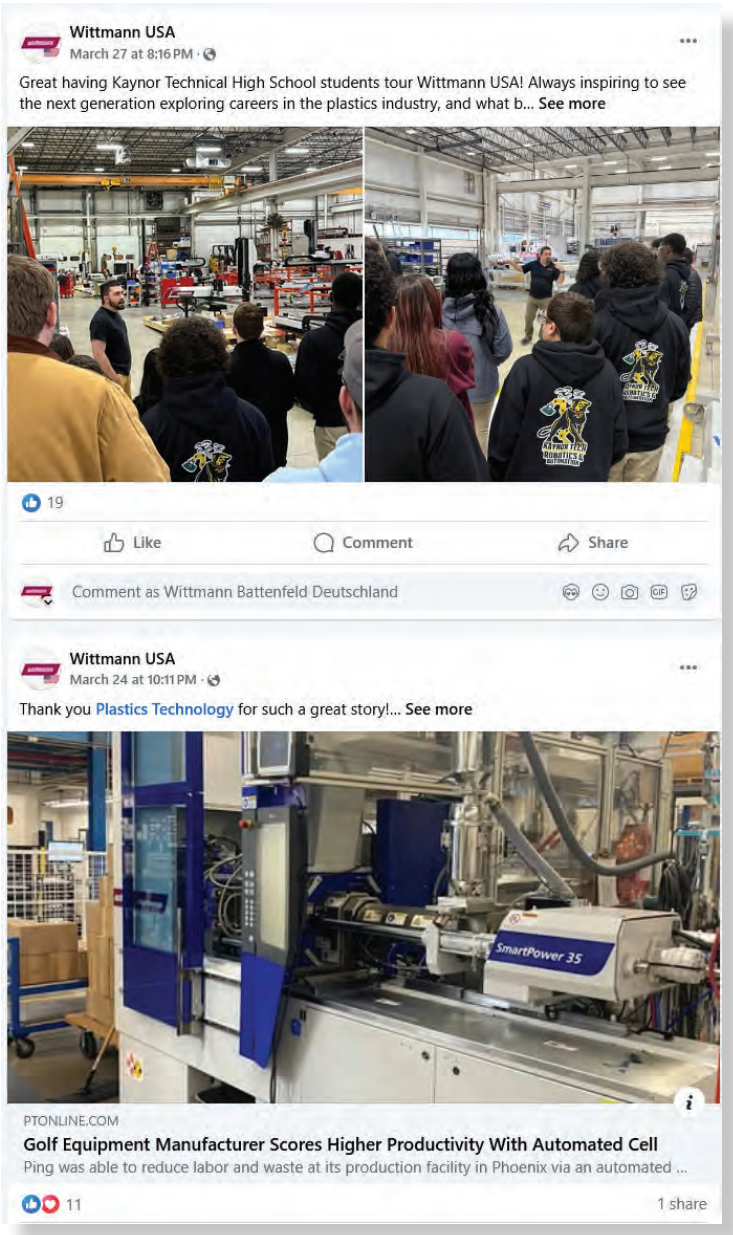
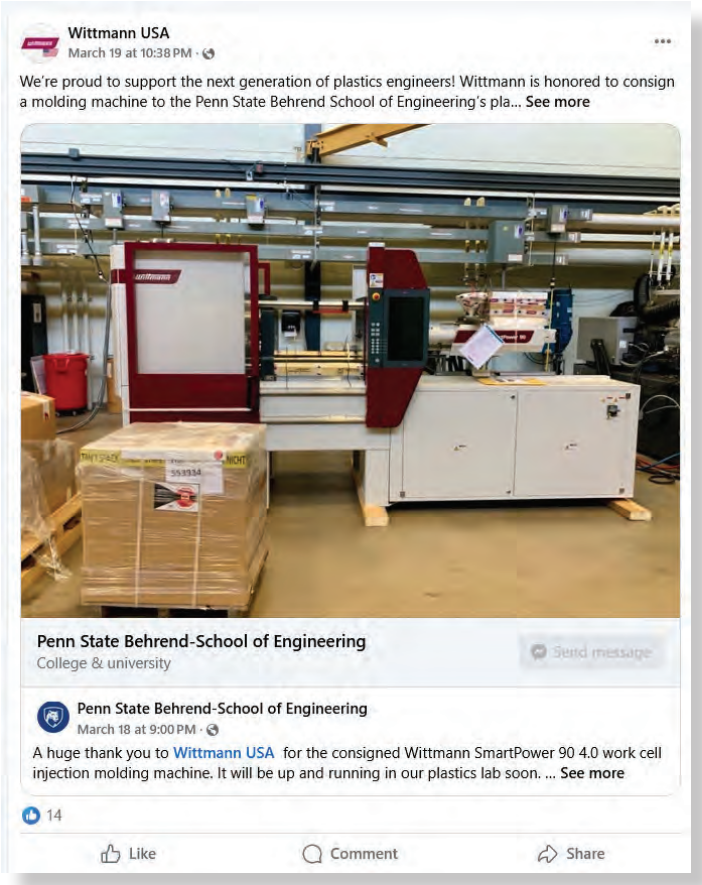
Connect With Us Online!

Make sure to connect with WITTMANN USA on our social media channels!







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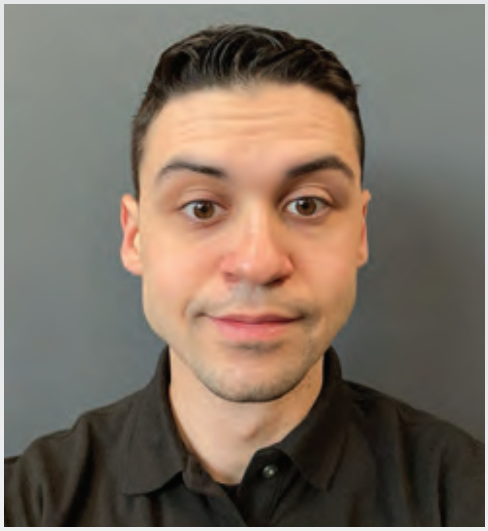


Vincent Malena attending WITTMANN Academy

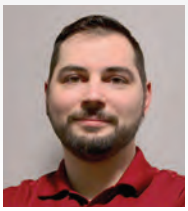
New WITTMANN employee Vincent Malena is the latest new hire to attend our WITTMANN Academy program.

Vincent joined WITTMANN on Jan. 6. He graduated Central Connecticut State University with a bachelor's in manufacturing engineering technology in December. He has been serving as a repair technician in the power sports and marine industry for about six years. In the program, Vincent will spend time in various departments to learn all about the plastics industry, WITTMANN's products and services and the different roles everyone plays.

"I remember coming to WITTMANN open houses with my uncle, Kenny Pond, and being infatuated with the robots and machinery," Vincent recalls. "I really enjoyed being in the automation department and working in the molding machine department. I look forward to being a part of the WITTMANN family for many years to come."

Promotions

Robert Brenckman,
Controls Engineer/Integrator, Robots & Automation



Rob Brenckman has been promoted to controls engineer/integrator for the Robots and Automation Division. Rob joined WITTMANN USA in September 2012 upon graduating from Oliver Wolcott Technical High School's electronics technology program. He quickly proved himself and moved up to field service for the Robot and Automation Division in March 2014. Now in our Control Department, Rob has begun training and is learning COMOS Electrical CAD software and programming of safety PLCs.

Royce Bailey,
Field Service Engineer, Robots & Automation

Royce Bailey has been promoted to field service engineer for the Robots and Automation Division. He has been with WITTMANN USA for 10 years as a field service technician in the Southeast region and has provided exceptional support. With significant growth in his territory, Royce has provided outstanding support to an increasing number of prominent customers with specialized needs. He also supports the after-hours phone program.

Stacy Wabrek,
Senior Technical Coordinator, Robots & Automation

Stacy Wabrek has been promoted to senior technical coordinator for the Robots and Automation Division. Stacy has been with WITTMANN USA for 24 years as technical coordinator. She has been an invaluable asset for NPE, helping with coordination and various scheduling needs. She will be responsible for managing the service phone line while assisting with and maintaining the service schedule as well as providing administrative and clerical support to our field service technicians

Garrett Martinez,
Regional Sales Manager, Material Handling & Auxiliaries

Garrett Martinez joined us a technical sales engineer in October 2023 selling auxiliary equipment in our West Coast region. In the short time the Garrett has been with us, he has not only shown in-depth understanding of our equipment offerings but also a strong desire to support our customers. He will now be responsible for material handling systems in the West Coast region.

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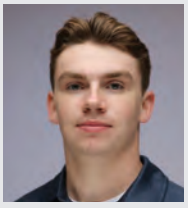
WITTMANN BATTENFELD Inc. Personnel News

New to WITTMANN USA

Riley Carlson,
Application Engineer,
Material Handling & Auxiliaries

Riley Carlson has joined WITTMANN's USA headquarters as application engineer for Material Handling and Auxiliaries. He joined WITTMANN after graduating from UConn in 2024 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Prior to his role with Wittmann, he gained hands-on experience through an internship at Pratt & Whitney and developed strong leadership skills as a summer camp counselor.



Justen Cranney
Field Service Engineer,
Material Handling & Auxiliaries

Justen recently joined WITTMANN USA as a Field Service Engineer for the Material Handling & Auxiliaries Division located in Michigan and servicing the Midwest territory. Originally from Big Rapids, MI, he earned his bachelor's degree in Plastics and Polymer Engineering and Technology from Ferris State University. Justen's passion for the plastics manufacturing industry began during a school tour of a plastics company, where he became fascinated by the innovation and technology behind the process. Outside of work, he enjoys golfing and traveling.

Omar Guereca,
Field Service Engineer,
Injection Molding Machines

Omar recently joined WITTMANN USA as a Field Service Engineer for the Material Handling & Auxiliaries Division in Texas and will service the Southern Midwest territory. Omar holds a degree in mechatronics engineering from the Technologic Institute of Juarez. He has worked as a technical sales representative and field service engineer at multiple equipment manufacturing companies. Between 2019 and 2023, he served as a field service engineer for WITTMANN Maquilas, where he worked extensively with WITTMANN BATTENFELD injection molding machines.

Upcoming Events

PennState Behrend

Come visit us at
Innovation and Emerging Plastics Technologies Conference
June 11th and 12th
Penn State Behrend
Erie, PA

Don't miss our presentation on regrind!
"Introducing Regrind into your Molding Process"
Presented by Thomas Dunn, Northeast Regional Manager
Material Handling & Auxiliaries

LSR 2025
JUNE 16-19, 2025 IN IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

Don't miss our presentation!
"Use of assistance systems and sensor technology in LSR injection molding to support the machine operator as well as for process monitoring"
11:30 am
Wolfgang Roth, Head of Application Engineering, WITTMANN BATTENFELD Gmbh

world of innovation

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