

Thermotech Honored to Host Bahrain Royalty



Matt Mahmood
Chief Operating Officer
Thermotech, Inc.

**Shaikh Mohammed
bin Essa Al Khalifa**
Chief Executive
Bahrain Economic Development Board



On October 6, 2011, Thermo-
tech was honored to host a
meeting with Bahrain dignitaries
headed by His Excellency Shaikh
Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa,
Chief Executive, Bahrain Economic
Development Board and also
members of the Minnesota
Department of Commerce. The
20-member delegation met with
local officials and businesses to
promote the Middle Eastern
nation's fast growing economy.
His Excellency stated he likes the
strength of Minnesota's corporate
community, its open and straight
forward business attitude and its
place in America's heartland.

His Excellency's role as Chief
Executive of the Bahrain Economic
Development Board (EDB) is to
lead the body entrusted with
ensuring the continued growth and
stimulation of Bahrain's economy.
He was appointed to this role in
June 2005 after ten years as a
close and trusted aid to HRH Prince
Salman Bin Hamad Al-Khalifa,
Crown Prince of Bahrain, ending as
President of his Royal Highness's
Court.



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Thermotech Sponsors Embry-Riddle SAE Formula Hybrid Team



“Thermotech donated their time and resources to EDM a spline in the spindles. An axle mates with the spline in the spindle and is what actually drives the car.”

The Embry-Riddle SAE Formula Hybrid team began in 2006 with the initiation of the University's Mechanical Engineering Program. The SAE Formula Hybrid Challenge requires students to develop a highly competitive race car while simultaneously exploring and developing innovative, greener, hybrid power trains. Participants compete on various levels of design evaluation, technical inspection, and vehicle testing that includes acceleration and endurance events, design and marketing presentations, and electrical inspections. The Embry-Riddle project is comprised of mechanical and aerospace

engineering students, and also serves as a senior design project for mechanical engineering students. The team has consistently pushed the limits of their design, and brought innovative ideas to the competition. Thermotech donated their time and resources to EDM a spline in the spindles. An axle mates with the spline in the spindle and is what actually drives the car.

This year the team built an entirely new car, challenging several aspects of their previous design,

with ultimate goals of simple system integration and weight reduction. The only parts they could not completely manufacture in house were the rear spindles.

More information about the team and event can be found at:
<http://eraumotorsports.com/>

Matt Mahmood Quoted In Article on Epicor



Matt Mahmood, Chief Operating Officer of the Pioneer Plastics' companies, was recently quoted in The Manufacturer.com, a publication of The Manufacturers' Organization in the United Kingdom, regarding IT in manufacturing. The article, "A stitch in time," discussed the benefits of reliance on an automated solution to maintenance or equipment effectiveness that can deliver highly reliable data at a far higher level of granularity and reliability. The Pioneer Plastics' companies rely on EPICOR.

"With eight manufacturing plants around the world, and 270 expensive injection molding machines to maintain—each costing up to half a million dollars—the ability to integrate the planning of preventative maintenance with the planning of production schedules was undeniably an important capability on its 'wish list', says chief operating officer Matt Mahmood.

"Now we have global visibility into metrics such as uptime, downtime, asset performance and availability—and, what's more, we can schedule preventative maintenance knowing that it won't affect customer commitments." The best of both worlds? Undoubtedly.

If you'd like to read the full article, go to:

themanufacturer.com/uk/content/12081/A_stitch_in_time

Thermotech Welcomes New Plant Managers

Dennis Schendel began his role as Plant Manager of Thermotech's Hopkins facility on July 6th. Prior to this, Dennis held the plant manager position at UFE, Wisconsin. Having worked at UFE for over 25 years, his vast knowledge of the plastics industry included experience as a machine operator, process technician and quality engineer. This makes Dennis an ideal team member in ensuring that Thermotech continues to be a leader in precision injection molding and assembly.

Dave Kaufman joined Thermotech as the new Plant Manager of Juarez facility. Dave brings 27 years of experience in management and manufacturing in the automotive, medical, and electronics sectors with United Technologies, Lear, and Yazaki Corporation. Previous positions held include Quality Engineer, Electrical-Electronics Engineer, Quality Manager, Quality/Engineering Director, and Plant Manager.

Putting On a Show in Vegas



Pioneer Plastics will be exhibiting at GlobalShop (booth 3418) at the Sands Expo and Convention Center in Las Vegas from February 29th - March 2nd. GlobalShop is the world's largest annual trade show and conference dedicated to retail design and in-store marketing. It is the only place where retailers and brand marketers can shop over 10,000 products and visit more than 900 suppliers in one location.

For more information and pricing, go to:

<http://www.globalshop.org/>

Chairman's Award Winners Announced

At its annual Summit Meeting held December 6-7, the three winners of the 2011 Chairman's Award were announced. And the winners are...

Kathy Anderson (Thermotech), began her career at Thermotech as a file clerk and quickly moved into the Production Control Department. As she gained knowledge of the business, this paved the road to her becoming a key team member of the Customer Service Department and help shape this department to what it is today.

Bob White (Thermotech), has met the many challenges of repairing press and equipment; moving presses throughout the production areas, and taking care of the facilities. He is highly regarded for being able to "get the job done" with the support of the maintenance department and others.

Dawn Rehker (Group Tool), started as a press operator and worked towards building a strong reputation for reliability and hard work. She earned her position as office manager in 2007 and manages all aspects of customer service, HR, payroll, accounting, order management, and corporate policy.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Supporting Children's Hospital



Harland Tonnell and Norm Kientzle of Thermotech participated in the 20th annual golf tournament benefiting the Children's Hospitals of Minnesota. The event was held at the White Bear Yacht Club and included a luncheon and golf outing. The winners of the event—a surgeon from Children's Hospital and his friend—apparently benefitted by playing the eighteen holes alongside Harland and Norm. The ultimate winners were the children, as the event raised over \$135,000 for this cause.

Over the years, Children's Hospitals Golf Benefit has raised over \$1.4 million to support projects!

Sharon Mieseler Celebrates 45 Years with Thermotech



Sharon Mieseler began her career with Thermotech 45 years ago as a press operator. After numerous promotions, her title is currently Master Data Specialist. Sharon has always been a very dedicated employee, who doesn't hesitate to help others whenever possible. She is also regarded as one of the nicest people you'll ever meet.

Sharon is the proud mother of identical twin daughters, Becky and Roxanne, who she describes as "My life." In addition to being a great mother, one of the things Sharon loves to do is bake. It's not unusual for her to bring her scrumptious baked treats to share with co-workers and does it with a smile. She tells us it makes her happy to do it—and we're so happy she does it!

We all want to thank Sharon for being a great team member as well as a great friend!

Top Diversity Owned Business Awards



Pioneer Plastics, Inc has been selected as one of the Top 500 Diversity Owned Businesses in the U.S. by DiversityBusiness.com. This is the third straight year that Pioneer Plastics, Inc has been ranked in the top 500. 2011 will mark DiversityBusiness.com's 11th annual listing of the Nation's top businesses. As an award winner, Pioneer Plastics, Inc is invited to attend the "12th Annual National Business Awards Ceremony and Conference" on April 25-27.

Pioneer Plastics was ranked in the following 5 award categories:

Top 500 Diversity Owned Businesses in the U.S. - 82nd

Top 500 Asian Owned Business in the U.S. - 23rd

Top 100 Subcontinent Asian American Businesses in the U.S. - 7th

Top 100 Diversity Owned Businesses in Minnesota - 9th

Top 100 Privately-held Businesses in Minnesota - 9th



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It Was Definitely a...

Family Fun Day

Saturday, May 21st, the families of Pioneer Plastics and Thermotech employees got together for their first Family Fun Day. Over 250 attended the event, which included tours of Thermotech's production area, a BBQ, face and tattoo painting, clown, kids' magic show, inflatables, family photos, balloons and more. Even though the weather was far from ideal, we were able to hold almost all the planned events indoors and still had a great time.



A BREAK FROM REALITY

(Left to right: Lynelle Tueffel, Denise Stender, Rebecca Shambour, and Kathy Anderson)

Thermotech's customer service representatives got into character on "Hawaiian Shirt Day".