



# Mold Technologies Division

Division of Society of Plastics Engineers

SPRING 2022

## Message from the Chair

**A**fter two long, weird, and solitary years, this past week found the return of tradeshow, thanks to the PTXPO. Thousands of plastics professionals including, molders, moldmakers, additive manufactures, suppliers and more showed up in Chicago for the inaugural event. There were so many highlights to the week. There was new technology represented, interviews with media companies, the presentation of the SPE MTD Mold Builder and Mold Designer of the year awards, and so many others that it is impossible to write it all out. More than anything else, the peak of the three-day event was easily the return of in-person relationship building and networking.

In this day and age, where information is fingertips away and YouTube has multiple videos offering solutions to any problem you might face, there is one thing that the internet cannot accurately make up for and that is real true relationships.

Those relationships you form when you run into someone at a tradeshow and talk about what is happening in their business and yours. When you can bring other people into the conversation and discuss problems and find remedies right there on the expo floor. Only in person can you grab a group of peers, go to dinner, and discuss real life and forge true, honest, difference making relationships.

Over my time as the MTD Division Chair the relationships are what I am most proud of. Bringing new members into the organization and onto the board. The hours of planning, developing, and strategizing with like-minded industry loving people looking to further the plastics industry. So many people join the SPE, and they don't really know why? They join because someone they trusted said that they should. Maybe they were encouraged that it would be good for their career. All those things are true, but only if you get involved and maximize your involvement and give to the organization and the industry.

Over the course of the three-day event, I had the opportunity to spend several hours with members of the SPE Mold Technologies Division. With some I accomplished some work and made new connections. With others we went to dinner and shared stories. And with others still I was able to refer them to other friends to help them grow their business and accomplish their goals. My point in all of this is to say that whether it is a trade show, or the SPE as an organization just attending or signing up is never going to bring you what you are hoping for. The success and the magic happen when you get involved, show up, bring your best and act in the interest of others.



**Tony Demakis**

SPE Mold Technologies Division Chair

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## Editor's Commentary

**W**hat have you learned – about your business, your team, your customers, and yourself - over the past two years? Many OEMs had travel and visitation restrictions in place, meaning many salespeople and project managers relied primarily on virtual meetings and phone calls to actively engage and collaborate. Obviously, the shop floor would be hard-pressed to work remotely, so the workday of a toolmaker and machinist (along with shipping & receiving, material handling, maintenance...) remained somewhat stable.

What about engineering and design – is online collaboration as effective as face-to-face meetings? We've been videoconferencing for well over two decades, so the concept of collaborative screensharing and group calls was adapted relatively easily. All the top collaborative group apps facilitate meetings for design reviews and project management. We can easily record our meetings – for documentation purposes or to share with those unable to attend.

What was different over the past two years, was that many people actually were working from home. Before 2020, that expression, "working from home," used to be met with derisive comments from those in the office and on the shop floor. It was seen as a cover for not wanting to go or being unable / unsuitable to go into the office. Working from the home office, occasionally or fulltime, is now standard operating procedure for many. One of the reasons it has caught on is that, without the drive time activities involved, there is more of the workday available for work.

I believe our business environments have improved as a result of the changes brought on by the reaction to COVID. A significant number of us have adapted to treating any space as an office. Productivity and collaboration applications continue to grow and expand their capabilities. I also believe business events – trade shows and technical seminars – have evolved for the better. While a live, in-person event rules for legitimate human interaction, a great many meetings can be better, and expedient, when virtual.



**John Berg**

SPE Mold Technologies Division  
2018/2019 Newsletter Editor

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## ***And the NEW Award Goes To...***

In an effort to recognize an otherwise group of Un-Sung Heroes in our industry, the Mold Technologies Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers, Incorporated is seeking nominations for the Mold Repair/Maintenance Technician of the Year 2023.

This is a new award from the division intended to recognize those practitioners that are the “Crime Scene Investigators” of our industry. They are often charged with trying to determine the root cause of mold/tooling failures even without parts. In addition, they may be working with the Materials/Sourcing/Purchasing teams to establish a proper cadence for tooling maintenance to keep our products flowing in the marketplace.

This award is based on the PERSONAL performance of a team member in your organization who exemplifies one or more of the following characteristics:

- **Superior understanding of the fit/function and operation of tooling as it relates to plastic processing and a keen ability to manage multiple tasks and ever-changing priorities**
- **Is able to convert his/her technical knowledge into a training opportunity for the next generation of Maintenance/Repair Team members within the marketplace**
- **Contributes in some manner to the community around us, either within the industry or outside the business**

Mr. Steve Johnson of **MoldTrax** is sponsoring this annual award with a \$1,000.00 donation in the recipient's name to the training center or university program of the recipient's choice.



The Mold Technologies Division thanks Steve and his company for this generous donation. MoldTrax offers tracking solutions and training for Mold Maintenance/Operations and related products. The company can be found at 2112 S, Baney Road Ashland, OH 44805 or [www.moldtrax.com](http://www.moldtrax.com).

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*For further information on this or the Mold Maker or Mold Designer of the Year Awards, please contact Scott Peters – Mold Technologies Division Chair-Elect 2020–2022.  
E-Mail: [Scott.Peters@MoldedMarketing.com](mailto:Scott.Peters@MoldedMarketing.com) – Phone: 330-201-3751*

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## HASCO Multi-Coupling System – *Standard system largely extended*

The innovative HASCO multi-coupling system allows the central connection of several cooling circuits in a single step and offers numerous process optimization advantages. As a result, setting-up procedures can be carried out quickly and easily by hand. Through the defined allocation, there is no risk here of mixing-up the different cooling circuits and hoses.

**Standard System** - The largely extended HASCO standard system is available as an open or a closed system with valve.



**Clean Break System** - The clean break HASCO system with flat sealing front surfaces reliably prevents the leakage of cooling fluid when decoupling.

**Modular Structure** - The modular structure allows individual configurations as well as simple integration into existing systems. 6, 12 and 20-position systems are available, whereby the couplings can be replaced without dismantling the hoses.

The multi-coupling system is available with a large number of different shut-off couplings and shut-off nipples. These include versions with inner or outer thread, Push-Lok or hose nipples, which further round off the extensive range.

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## New HASCO Ejector Assembly Securing System Z732

During the transport of injection molding tools, there is a danger that the ejector assembly may move and damage the mold cavities. The innovative HASCO ejector assembly securing system, Z732, guarantees damage-free transport of injection molding tools by easily and effectively securing the ejector assembly. The easy-to-use magnet solution, available in two sizes, enables fast securing and releasing of the ejector assembly without the need for any additional tools by the encapsulated securing pin.



Installed in a space-saving manner in the riser area, a securing pin is positioned in the locking position in such a way that it extends into the free space in front of the ejector assembly and thus prevents unintentional movement. This reliably avoids damage to mold cavities. The ejector assembly securing system can be adjusted individually to any molding tool by cutting the securing pin to the right length.

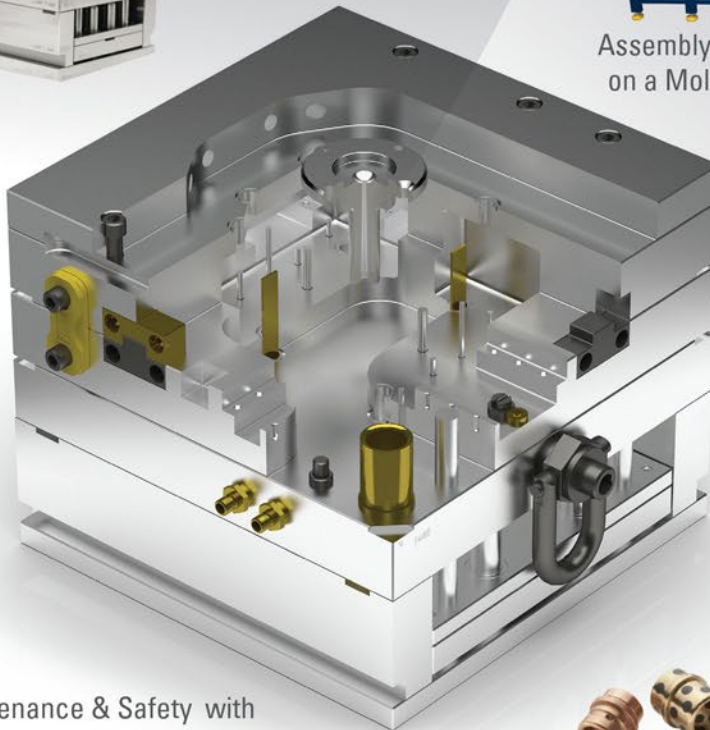
The new ejector assembly securing system Z732 is temperature resistant up to 80 °C and offers optimum protection during the transportation of injection molding tools.



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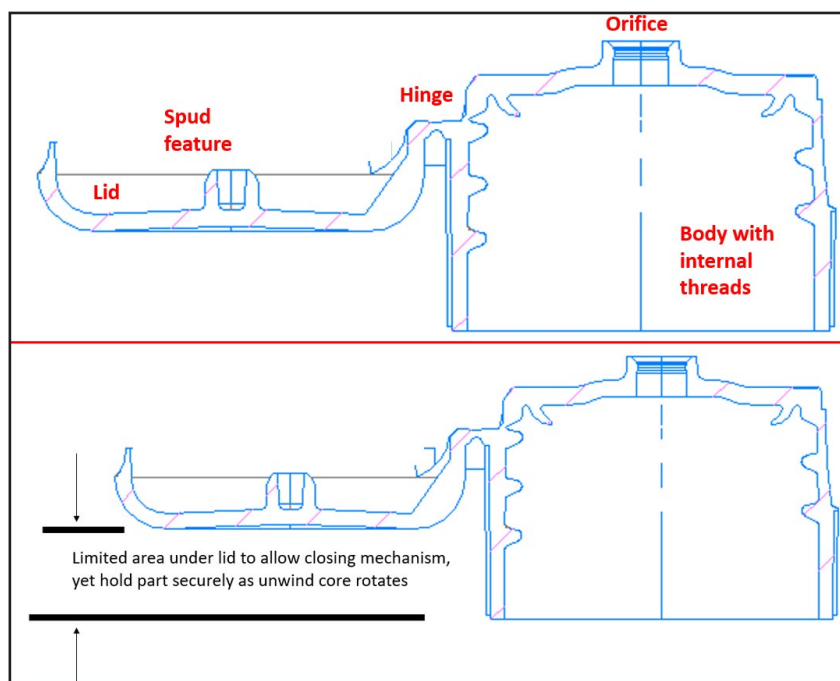
## In-Mold Closing with a Living Hinge Feature

In business since 1954, Omega Tool Inc, Menomonee Falls Wisconsin, is a 3rd generation family owned, high-cavitation / precision-focused mold builder for the medical, packaging, and light industrial markets. We were approached for a project by a customer to produce a packaging-related tooling system to support their production plans in response to COVID.

The scope of the project was to produce a consumer goods-style flip-top lid mold, with unwind threads, and in- mold-close mechanics. Omega has built a good many injection molds utilizing in-mold closing, and also many flip top lid / living hinge molds, but this was unique due to the size of the part, and the geometry of the part.

The size of the part was quite small. This created a challenge, since the closing mechanics need to get under the flip-top lid to close the part, while still in the mold, but before ejecting the part.

In order to close the part, steel needs to be removed, or moved out of the way temporarily, to allow the closing mechanism to close the lid actuating the living hinge. The lid closing motion is not a constant radius to close the part, whether in a mold or outside of a mold in a closing machine.



The in-mold-closing hardware has a force on the mechanism that can potentially allow the hardware to flex. The natural thought is to just make the hardware larger, but then it improperly contacts the molded part in an incorrect location, in which causes the lid to not properly close. The lids will pop open after a period of time.

Many packaging closures have internal threads to allow them to mount / integrate to the bottle or container. These threads can be formed several ways, such as stripping the thread off of the core (if material and thread size allow), unwinding the core, or retracting / collapsing

steel from inside the closure to allow the molded part to come off of the core.

Molds with internal threads, that are unwound, require a feature that allows the internal core to unwind from the plastic part. There are a few ways to achieve this anti-rotation feature. The exterior knurls were the anti-rotation features for this particular part, which is not uncommon. Impressions on the bottom of the part are formed with

standing steel that “stakes” itself into the plastic to help present the part for the closing operation. This particular part’s geometry would not allow for these underside recesses. Since the knurls were the unwind feature, we needed to figure out how to unwind the part, then present the part to close, and not be knocked off the core when the closing occurred.

This was a fun but challenging project since the part was small, delicate, and had to be visually appealing, but also required a mold with robust mechanics, as well as have a short cycle time. We were successful, plus we were able to beat the customer’s quoted cycle time.

#### *About the author, Wes Stephens:*

Wes started as a mold-making apprentice for a mold shop in northern Illinois, which included on-the-job training and mold-making classes at McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, Illinois. After completing his apprenticeship, he built molds and continued his education, receiving a marketing/management BS degree. He eventually managed, quoted, and worked with customers for the shop where he served his apprenticeship. In Illinois, he was part of the AMBA education committee, which helped to match students to shops by participating in career fairs, school presentations, and shop tours.

In 2020, he and his family crossed the “cheddar curtain” from Illinois to Wisconsin, and joined Omega Tool, Menomonee Falls, WI as a salesman/project manager. Omega Tool is a mold builder for the medical, packaging, and light industrial markets. Wes was able to bring his multi-cavity background to compliment the Omega Tool team. Omega Tool has a strong apprenticeship program since they recognize the need to train the next generation of mold makers. Omega Tool is always looking at new machines, materials, and coatings, to ensure they are at the forefront of technology.

# Mold Technologies Division Seeks Directors

The Board of Directors, Mold Technologies Division, the Society of Plastics Engineers, Incorporated is seeking nominations for Directors for the coming operating year.

Operating Years within the division are from July 01 through June 30 of the following year. Membership on the board is for a 3-year active position and may be renewed each 3rd year as the director desires.

*Open roles on the division leadership include:*

**Newsletter Sponsorship Chair**  
**Associate Newsletter Editor**  
**Education Chair**  
**Newsletter Sponsorship Solicitor**  
**Track the Apprentice Associate**  
**Inter-Society Liaison**

The Division is also in need of a Councilor to SPE Headquarters and Global Leadership. This is an elected position from the division at large and is for a maximum of 2-consecutive 3-year terms. This role acts as a liaison between the division and the leadership of the SPE on a global basis.

All division leadership roles require an active membership in the Society of Plastics Engineers.

Elections will take place in the month of May, with notification to new members of the board by 01-June 2022 and the initial board meeting on Tuesday July 12th.

For additional information or to self-nominate please contact: Scott Peters Division Chair-Elect 2020 – 2022 at: E-Mail: [Scott.Peters@MoldedMarketing.com](mailto:Scott.Peters@MoldedMarketing.com) // Phone: 330.201.3751

Or read the three-article series in our newsletter “What’s in it for Me?”



The logo for Glenn Beall Plastics is a circular emblem. It features the name "GLENN BEALL" at the top and "PLASTICS" at the bottom. In the center, there is a stylized signature or monogram that appears to be "GB" or "PB".

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**Tel: (847) 549-9970**  
**Email: [glennbeallplas@msn.com](mailto:glennbeallplas@msn.com)**



## MOLD TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION

### 2021/2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**OUR MISSION:** *To be the leading industry resource for technical information and to advance plastic mold engineering technologies, while fostering industry growth, education and leadership.*

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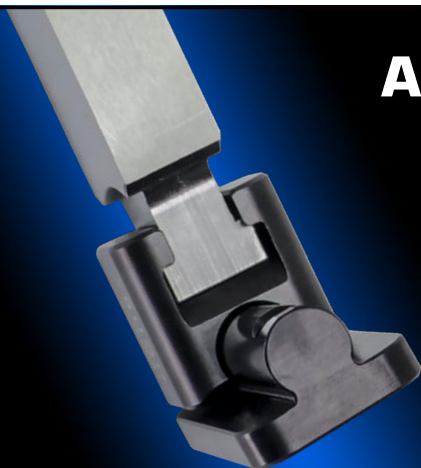
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# What's In It For Me – Part III: Let's Count the Costs

This is the third installment of the “What's In It for Me” series. And it brings us to the Costs of Leadership. In the first installment, we reviewed the personal benefits of participation in a leadership role within the division, or any board of directors for that matter. A quick check of those benefits is:

- Meeting personal altruistic desires
- Providing industry notoriety
- Feeding your professional ego
- Providing INSTANT recognition as an industry leader
- Providing leadership training – Mentorship
- Providing close association resources
- Building lifelong friendships



Each of these meets some personal developmental goal or finds some personal recognition for jobs well done. And each gains a new level of personal visibility in the industry – and that can mean career advancement!

In the second installment, we covered the “What's In It for My Company” aspects. You know companies are willing to invest in employees in many ways so long as they (the stakeholders) see a return on investment. Those returns can be summed up in the following:

- Instant Corporate Notoriety as a leading company in the industry

- Marketing Collateral - That collateral may be in the form of:

- Websites
- Personal and corporate social media sites
- E-mails
- Written publications
- Trade events

- Networking – Networking - Networking

- Pride in Family

With all those benefits, what are the costs? How do we calculate the ROI (Return on Investment)? Those are the questions we hope to answer now.

|                   | Actual |        |        |        |        | Forecast period |        |        |        |            | CAGR       | CAGR |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|------------|------------|------|
|                   | 2014A  | 2015A  | 2016A  | 2017A  | 2018E  | 2019E           | 2020E  | 2021E  | 2022E  | 2014-2017A | 2018-2022E |      |
| Net sales         | 3 355  | 3 568  | 4 102  | 4 653  | 5 036  | 5 388           | 5 711  | 5 997  | 6 237  | 16,4%      | 5,5%       |      |
| growth, %         |        | 6,2%   | 14,9%  | 13,3%  | 8,0%   | 7,0%            | 6,0%   | 5,0%   | 4,0%   |            |            |      |
| COGS              | -2 058 | -2 516 | -3 310 | -3 752 | -3 544 | -3 792          | -4 019 | -4 220 | -4 389 | 16,4%      | 5,5%       |      |
| Gross profit      | 851    | 1 053  | 1 272  | 1 492  | 1 492  | 1 596           | 1 692  | 1 777  | 1 848  | 16,4%      | 5,5%       |      |
| margin, %         | 25,4%  | 29,5%  | 31,0%  | 32,1%  | 29,6%  | 29,6%           | 29,6%  | 29,6%  | 29,6%  |            |            |      |
| OPEX              | -180   | -200   | -210   | -215   | -224   | -232            | -240   | -249   | -257   | 11,1%      | 5,0%       |      |
| growth, %         |        | 11,1%  | 5,0%   | 2,4%   | 4,0%   | 3,8%            | 3,5%   | 3,3%   | 3,3%   |            |            |      |
| in % of net sales | 5,4%   | 5,6%   | 5,1%   | 4,6%   | 4,4%   | 4,3%            | 4,2%   | 4,1%   | 4,1%   |            |            |      |
| EBITDA            | 832    | 853    | 991    | 1 139  | 1 268  | 1 364           | 1 452  | 1 528  | 1 591  | 17,6%      | 5,8%       |      |
| margin, %         | 24,8%  | 23,9%  | 24,2%  | 24,4%  | 25,2%  | 25,3%           | 25,4%  | 25,5%  | 25,5%  |            |            |      |
| Depreciation      | -49    | -63    | -64    | -64    | -64    | -64             | -64    | -64    | -64    | 19,8%      | 5,5%       |      |
| In % of net sales | 1,5%   | 1,8%   | 1,6%   | 1,4%   | 1,3%   | 1,2%            | 1,1%   | 1,1%   | 1,1%   |            |            |      |
| EBIT              | 783    | 790    | 927    | 1 053  | 1 180  | 1 270           | 1 351  | 1 427  | 1 477  | 18,8%      | 5,9%       |      |
| Tax (30%)         | -119   | -138   | -151   | -159   | -163   | -163            | -163   | -163   | -163   | 11,4%      | 5,9%       |      |
| Capex             | -79    | -79    | -79    | -79    | -79    | -79             | -79    | -79    | -79    | n.a.       | 0          |      |
| in % of net sales | 2,4%   | 2,2%   | 1,9%   | 1,7%   | 1,6%   | 1,5%            | 1,4%   | 1,3%   | 1,3%   |            |            |      |

If we look at these costs under the EBITDA acronym, we can show the following:

- E & B** = Earnings (or BENEFITS of participation)
- I** = Interest (the INVESTMENT that our company is making in us)
- T** = Taxes (the TOLL that participation will take on family life)
- D** = Depreciation (the TOLL participation will take on personal time)
- A** = Amortization (how the participation PAYS BACK in regular instalments) [I know this one is a bit of a stretch, but I needed to put it to work too!]

Let's start with the Interest portion of this calculation. Your company, whether you are the owner, general manager, engineering manager, tool making lead, or janitor, will be making an investment in terms of your time. That investment may be limited to 1 – 2 hours per month for a web-based board meeting or it may amount to more time depending on your personal level of involvement.

If the SPE (Society of Plastics Engineers) ever moves back to 100% Face-to-Face ANTEC (Annual Technical Conferences) your company may be asked to invest in having you out-of-pocket for a day or a week to attend the conference. And beyond that, you may ask (though nothing is guaranteed) that your company cover the cost of travel to that conference. Now, understand that the conference in and of itself doesn't promise new networks, but it does hold great opportunities to expand what you have and to gain the latest in technical research. So, there are benefits for this participation – but they don't come for free.

In addition, you may have regular committee work to accomplish – whether it is tracking membership trends or sharing information and activities between our division and other trade related organizations or doing the financial statements, these are all regular activities of board members. The cost of Board Participation is time. If the work is done "On the Clock," that is time away from the company. Likewise, if it is done "Off the Clock," that is time away from the family. In either case there is a cost, and the bill will be paid with your time. And that Interest MUST be paid.

**Taxes** – let's face it no one likes to pay taxes... And the taxes we pay for participation on a board may (probably will) include time away from family.

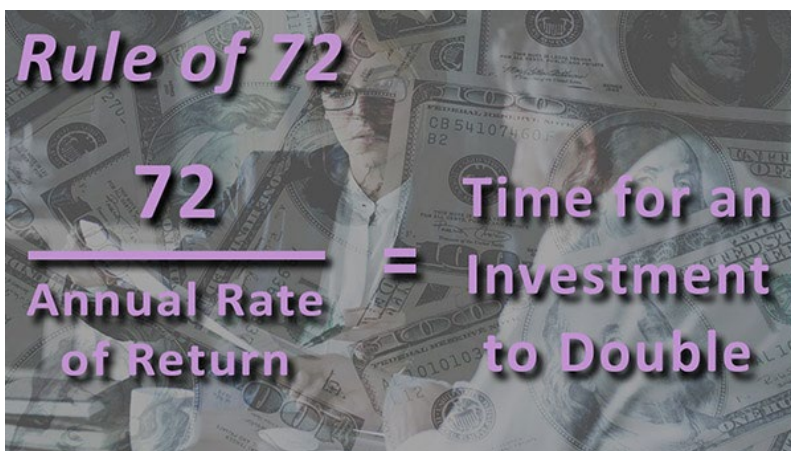
We talked about the pride our spouse or family may derive from our participation and now we need to count the cost – Participation in some roles on the board requires a fair amount of discipline and time. The role of Newsletter Editor (back when we had print copies) required an average of 10 – 20 hours per quarter, of preparation and layout – add to that copy editing and you could see a full week once every three months. Today our editor is doing the layout and copy editing electronically – and I would bet he puts in at least that much time. Add to the layout, chasing down articles and reports – cleaning them up for publication and the time really adds up.

There are other highly involved roles and then there are some that can be done in a taxi on the way to a meeting. The point is that each role requires a certain amount of time, and that time is time away from home in most cases. That is a TAX – and one that needs to be counted.

**Depreciation** – Many of us consider the depreciation of our machinery and buildings as part of the cost of doing business. We believe the investment will pay back with dividends over the time we have the asset in place... And if we are correct (as I hope we all are), that is borne out in continued business and re-investment. So, it is with us. We, too, depreciate. Well let's hope not in real value but perhaps in resilience. Speaking for myself, I can say that the energy I had in the early 2000's is not the same as today. Oh, I still have get-up and go, but for sure some of it got up and went...

We may go to the gym, do regular exercise, and challenge the fitness routine, but if you're like me – and I know I am not A-Typical – you'll admit that there is a certain amount of R & R required to feel recharged. And participation on a board (or any volunteer organization) is time, and time = R & R... A lack of R & R not only impacts your effectiveness on the board, but in your home life and in your business life. And all of that adds up to Depreciation – but no worries, there is that wonderful Amortization that comes next.

**Amortization** – Typically Amortization refers to the repayment of a loan. For purposes of this discussion, we will consider it as Pre-Payment against future career goals and benefits.



I think you would agree that it is important to “Pay Ourselves First.” Many years ago, a friend and co-worker taught me that principal. Basically put, we take a certain percentage of our gross income and put it aside every pay period. We do that before any other bills are paid so that we get into the habit of stashing away cash before we spend it. And if we follow this plan, the money (or investment) grows and grows and grows...

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When we talk about finances, we consider the “Rule of 72.” In that rule of money, you can determine the length of time required to double your investment by dividing 72 by that annual percentage rate... For example, if we have 1% Monthly Interest and divide 72 by 1, we will double our money in 72 months. Likewise, if it is 1% Annual Interest you will need 72 Years – not a great return.

When we talk about a Career Path Amortization Schedule, it is a little more complicated. But it is still an investment. Let me explain.

When we participate on a board such as the Mold Technologies Division, we develop a professional persona. That persona attaches itself to our resume in the form of “Additional Activities.” Now, don’t get me wrong, I am not saying that we are out there looking to capitalize on this new persona through job changes. However, should something come up that drives you or me to the Job Market, having these additions on our CV (curriculum veritas or resume) are enhancements that may improve our marketability.

Additionally, we are building a reputation within our company that is marketable to customers and colleagues alike. Setting not only yourself but also your company apart as an Industry Leader with the forethought and foresight to set and achieve goals for current and future practitioners is truly something to let people know about. All of this is Pay-It-Forward investing – *AMORTIZATION*.

So, is it worth it? You be the judge...

I can tell you that the 25-plus years that I have been associated with this board have been rewarding and have more than compensated for the BITDA of EBITDA. Yes, that is correct, I have been associated with this board in one form or another for going on 3 decades.

There are others that hold similar times in grade – Glenn Beall, Glenn Starkey, Wayne Hertlein, Barbara Arnold-Feret to name a few. And my belief is that they too will tell you the time was and continues to be well spent. Guiding the SPE Mold Technologies Division – its leadership – and the industry as we move forward in the Art and Craft of Mold Making and Design is a passion for us all.

We hope that as new members join the division board that they too will find that passion and belief that our industry holds a bright career future for young men and women around the globe. It has afforded us well and we expect more of the same for you!

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*About the author – Scott L. Peters is president and founder of Molded Marketing LLC – a marketing company dedicated to the art and craft of Mold Making and Design. He has served on this board in all roles from Assistant Newsletter Sponsorship Chair to Division Chair and Division Councilor to SPE International – in 2008 he led the Student Activities Committee of ANTEC Milwaukee to do great things for student authors and future leaders of the industry. Scott can be reached at [scott.peters@molded-marketing.com](mailto:scott.peters@molded-marketing.com) or +1-330-201-3751*

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## **SPE Mold Technologies Division Names Marcin Zajac of A-1 Tool Corp. “Mold Designer of the Year”**

*Award presented at the Inaugural PTXPO Trade Show in Chicago*

Chicago, IL (March 28, 2022) – The Mold Technologies Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE MTD) has named Marcin Zajac of A-1 Tool Corp. as its Mold Designer of the Year honoree. Zajac received the honors in the Progressive Components booth at the inaugural PTXPO on Tuesday, March 29, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois.

The Mold Designer of the Year award honors an individual who has made a worthwhile contribution to the SPE or the industry, conducts themselves in an ethical manner in all business proceedings, and exhibits strong technical experience. Marcin Zajac exemplifies all of this. Jason Murphy, president of Next Chapter Manufacturing, a customer who has worked with Zajac for several years now, nominated him, saying, “His ability to stay focused managing a group of individuals with differing views and opinions to come up with innovative designs that work every time is the reason why I am proud to nominate Marcin.”



Zajac immigrated to the United States from Poland as a young teenager and worked hard to learn English and assimilate into American culture. His sights were originally set on a career in IT programming. After graduating from high school where he took some CAD and drafting classes, he worked odd jobs, attended some college, and eventually landed himself a job at A-1 Tool running CNC machines. It didn't take long for those around him to recognize his intelligence and aptitude for programming. He was quickly promoted to work in the design department where he honed his designing and programming skills and, as they say, found his calling. “His passion for problem solving paralleled with his IT skills made him a standout designer,” Murphy says.

Zajac not only developed a passion for mold design and development, but he has also shared that passion by mentoring young designers entering the field. He is certified in Siemens NX CAD software and uses it skillfully every day, sharing what he has learned with others. Four years ago, Zajac was promoted to the position of Manager of A-1's design department and continues to mentor and inspire others with his passion for innovative mold design. In addition, he is active with the American Mold Builders Association (AMBA) and has made presentations at trade events.

The SPE MTD would like to thank Progressive Components for sponsoring this award and hosting the presentation at its booth. Zajac received a plaque and a scholarship check in the amount of \$500, which he will donate to East Leyden High School's Metal Working/Engineering Program. He was also a featured guest of Tony Demakis, SPE MTD Chair, on his Manufacturing Alliance Podcast.

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## **SPE Mold Technologies Division Names Rick Finnie of M.R. Mold & Engineering “Mold Maker of the Year”**

*Award presented at the Inaugural PTXPO Trade Show in Chicago*

Chicago, IL (March 28, 2022) – The Mold Technologies Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE MTD) has named Rick Finnie, president of M.R. Mold & Engineering, Mold Maker of the Year. Finnie received the honors in the HASCO booth at the inaugural PTXPO on Tuesday, March 29, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois.



The SPE MTD has a long history of bestowing this award and takes pride in the fact that each of its recipients has been a credit to the industry on many levels. Rick Finnie is no exception. On the technical, mold manufacturing side, Finnie has helped pioneer mold building for liquid silicone rubber. For example, he has developed his own cold runner system, universal base, pneumatic stuffer box, valve-gated controller, and vacuum seal. These key components have not only secured his company's foothold as a leader in the industry, but they also have helped M.R. Mold customers save time and money as they get their products to market.

When it comes to giving back to the industry, Rick has made it a priority to mentor students and colleagues. He has been actively involved in education-related activities his whole life; from being a Boy Scout leader to his activities in several trade organizations and committees. Some of these include The Los Angeles Rubber Group Incorporated (TLARGI), the Century High School STEAM program in Santa Ana, and being part of a team of experts who offer a “fundamentals of silicone” course.

Rick has sat on the steering committee for the LSR Conference for the past five years and spoken at numerous conferences during his career. In addition to partnering with the NTMA to recruit apprentices, M.R. Mold provides students within the community with summer internships, encouraging the youth of today to understand the importance of American manufacturing. Pre-pandemic, M.R. Mold & Engineering has hosted more than 400 students each year in his company's week-long Manufacturing Day event.

The SPE MTD would like to thank HASCO for sponsoring this award and hosting the presentation at its booth. Finnie received a plaque and a scholarship check in the amount of \$500, which Finnie will donate to the trade related program of his choosing. He was also a featured guest of Tony Demakis, SPE MTD Chair, on his Manufacturing Alliance Podcast.

# Meeting Minutes

## SPE Mold Technologies Division - March 8, 2022

|                      | Present | Absent | Excused |               | Present | Absent | Excused |
|----------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Tony Demakis         | X       |        |         | John Evans    |         | X      |         |
| John Berg            | X       |        |         |               |         |        |         |
| Scott Peters         | X       |        |         | Cyndi Kustush |         | X      |         |
| Wayne Hertlein       |         | X      |         | Brenda Clark  | X       |        |         |
| Greg Osborn          |         | X      |         | Davide Masato | X       |        |         |
| Barbara Arnold-Feret | X       |        |         | Wes Stephens  | X       |        |         |
| Stephen Hansen       |         | X      |         | Richard Evans | X       |        |         |
| Rich Martin          |         |        | X       | Scott Kraemer |         |        | X       |
| Raymond Gibler       | X       |        |         | Hannah Coombs | X       |        |         |

### Division Chair – Tony Demakis

Will send out email proposing new meeting time

### Chair-Elect Report – Scott Peters

Decisions were made for the Mold Maker and Mold Designer Awards nominations – good nominations, and requested that they are submitted again next year

Winners will be announced at PTEXPO

Nominations for board members need to be sent to Scott by early May 1

Budget for awards was discussed

### Division Secretary Report – Wes Stephens

Nothing to report

### Division Councilor Report – Cyndi Kustush / Barbara Arnold-Feret

Barbara requested an answer about the seminar to be either in person or virtual. It was decided by the board, to be in person

Barbara will create an outline, and then committee will be formed.

Date will be moved out – need to establish location

Banner for Mold Maker and Mold Designer was voted on and approved

### Membership Chair – Rich Martin

Rich emailed his report to board

### Sponsorship Chair Report / TPC Report – Davide Masato

ANTEC - only had 2 papers submitted.

These papers will be presented virtually

Virtual has lower turnout

LinkedIn and SPE website were method of calling for papers

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### **Treasurer's Report – Rich Martin**

Rich is working with the Bank in WI. Rich has sent them the necessary individual information they requested. They had asked for specific SPE Corporate information, Rich has asked Corporate for this information. He is waiting for their response based on numerous requests.

Scott has sent Rich the checks for corporate sponsors of which Rich will be opening an account, most likely at TD Bank. This will give us the ability to write checks for the upcoming awards we will be handing out. Once that is complete, we will begin the process of pulling all of our monies out of the Bank in WI and move to new bank.

### **Intersociety Liaison Chair – Richard Evans**

Richard has been in contact with apprenticeship coordinator, and they have shown interest

### **Web and Public Interest – Hannah Coombs**

Hannah will provide tips and prompts for apprentice to film herself  
First one will be to introduce the apprentice

### **New Business**

Barbara's seminar – details to come

### **Education Chair Report – Greg Osborn**

Not present

### **Newsletter Editor Report – John Berg**

Newsletter to be assembled and ready for review 3/31  
Ready for publishing / distribution in April

### **International Committee – Davide Masato**

Nothing to report



*Laser Texturing & Engraving have arrived here at MST Inc.*

MST is pleased to announce the arrival of our newly-added Laser texturing and engraving 5 axis machine. This added technology offers MST Inc. the ability to provide our customers with 3 dimensional type patterns that are virtually unlimited. We are excited to bring MST Inc. into this amazing technology and look forward to working with you on your future projects.



For quotes or questions, please contact Joe Gendron, President - MST Inc.

4485 Crystal Parkway - Suite 300 - Kent, Ohio 44240

Office: 330-678-8590 - Fax: 330-678-8594 - Cell: 330-352-5082

Email: [jgendron@msttextures.com](mailto:jgendron@msttextures.com)

## Newsletter Sponsorship

The SPE Mold Technologies Division Newsletter is now issued four times a year, with readership composed of individuals involved in all aspects of the mold making industry. These issues are made possible through the support of sponsors shown in this Newsletter. SPE Mold Technologies Division thanks these sponsors for their generosity and encouragement in the publishing of our Newsletter.

For information on sponsorship of future issues, please contact:

Scott Peters - Chair Elect/Awards Chair/Sponsorship Chair

Scott.peters@moldedmarketing.com

### Publication Release Dates

Spring Issue  
April 2022

Summer Issue  
July 2022

Fall Issue  
October 2022

Winter Issue  
January 2023

## SPONSORSHIP INFO 2022-2023

### Platinum (\$2500/year)

Ad Specs: 9.75" H x 7.25" W

- Full page color ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- First right of refusal to a tabletop at Technical Tours to educate participants on new technologies/strategies
- Opportunity to submit a technical article for publication in newsletter
- Company logo on signage in MTD booth at AmeriMold
- Company logo on signage at ANTEC
- Company logo displayed at SPE events

### Gold (\$1250/year)

Ad Specs: 4.75" H x 7.25" W

- Half page color ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- First right of refusal to a tabletop at Technical Tours to educate participants on new technologies/strategies
- Opportunity to submit a technical article for publication in newsletter
- Company logo on signage in MTD booth at AmeriMold
- Company logo on signage at ANTEC
- Company logo displayed at SPE events

### Silver (\$625/year)

Ad Specs: 4.75" H x 3.5" W

- Quarter page color ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- First right of refusal to a tabletop at Technical Tours to educate participants on new technologies/strategies
- Opportunity to submit a technical article for publication in newsletter
- Company logo displayed at SPE events

### Bronze (\$250/year)

Ad Specs: 2" H x 3.5" W

- Business card size ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- Company logo displayed at SPE events