
DIE CAST AND PLASTIC MOLDS • VAC FORM AND TRIM DIE TOOLING • COMPLETE ENGINEERING SERVICE

August 28, 2018

General Die & Engineering, Inc.
6500 Clay SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

General Die & Engineering was established in 1971. Our primary products are plastic injection molds, thermoset molds, and die cast dies for the zinc, aluminum, and magnesium industries. General Die & Engineering also provides complete engineering and design services in conjunction with its mold construction capabilities. General Die & Engineering's facility was expanded in 2001 and provides 68,000 square feet of manufacturing floor space.

Over the past several years, it has become increasingly difficult to hire the skilled labor that General Die requires in its workforce. Initial on-the-job training cost is significantly increased when the new hires lack the experience from prior jobs. As a result, training tends to take about one month per individual. The cost of this training for one month's wage and fringe is approximately \$3,000.

In 2017, we purchased a new Ingersoll Eagle EDM. Our capacity for taking on new work and expanding our business is directly affected by the purchase of new machinery and having the properly trained personnel to run them.

During 2018, we were able to hire one new employee with previous EDM experience but not with the new technology that we had purchased. The STTF Training Funds helped to offset the initial costs of training and he remains a highly productive employee.

Two additional employees were also hired without any prior experience. One was hired to run our gundrill machines on nights. Unfortunately, after training and employment of five months, he left our company to pursue a day shift position elsewhere. The other new hire is 17 year-old high school student that has taken an interest in the tool and die industry as a mold maker assistant. Without the availability of the STTF Training Funds, it would be difficult to justify the hiring of young workers.

Sincerely,



John Rose
VP of Finance