

Proper Group Follows Up Technology Show With Special Event for GM Executives

It's always nice to have the chance to show off just what you can do, and that's what the people at the Warren-based company Proper Group International did when they held a Technology Day for GM executives.

The demonstration was held Aug. 1, and, said Vice President Joe Grippe, it grew out of the technology day the company put on earlier in the spring.

"Our Aug. 1 event was a good one," Grippe said. "It was a follow-up to the technology show we held a few months ago in our Advanced Technology Center in Warren."

"We displayed some of our inductive heating for injection molds technology and composite tools, as well as our rapid cooling technology."

Grippe said that GM was among the companies that sent representatives to the spring demonstration. They liked what they saw so Proper Group International held the special showing of technology for GM executives on Aug. 1.

"These demonstrations are held for the purpose of showing the benefits of our services," Grippe said. "These benefits include an excellent surface finish as well as the ability to provide 'wall molding' to lightweight parts."

Grippe said wall molding is used in the injection molding process.

"We are one of the largest injection mold makers in North America," Grippe said. "We also have a facility that makes injection molding to order. We like to hold three or four shows a year to show off the technology we use and the partners we engage with."

Business has been good, Grippe said. "By using the latest production technologies," he said, "the company is able to develop different business opportunities for ourselves and for our customers to produce lightweight parts."

That's important, Grippe said, because with new, stricter



GM executives check out Proper Group's injection capabilities.

mileage requirements coming down the road, automakers have to lose vehicle weight any way they can.

By using new technology provided by companies like Roc Tools, Proper is able to make parts thinner without losing needed strength. Companies that help OEMs like GM reduce weight in vehicles have a better chance of doing business with them in these competitive times, Grippe said. That means investing in new manufacturing techniques and equipment.

One way to do this is to mold parts that won't require painting, Grippe said.

"Some molded parts get painted because of surface flaws," Grippe said. "These flaws need to be covered with paint. The tools we use to make the parts use high heat to mold the parts by extending the material flow and then the molded parts themselves can achieve a high-gloss finish or a low-gloss finish. This is done by mimicking the tool surface."

That was what his company was showing the more than 50 GM executives who visited the Proper Group show on Aug. 1, Grippe said.

"It's exciting to be able to show people what we can do for them," Grippe said. "The auto industry is heating up and we're looking for ways to be a part of that growth."

GM Foundation Donates \$200K to Aid 'Never Leave Your Child Alone in a Car'

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to help save lives and prevent injuries."

Since 1998, an average of 37 children per year have lost their lives due to heatstroke, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Even on a 75-degree day, the interior of a vehicle can reach more than 100 degrees in approximately 20 minutes. On an 80-degree day the interior of a vehicle can reach 100 degrees or more in just 10 minutes. At 92 outside, temps can reach 117 in a vehicle.

The GM Foundation's donation to Safe Kids included raising awareness for "National Heatstroke Awareness Day," which this year was on Wednesday, July 31.

Advocates are encouraged to join the day-long social media conversation by tweeting and posting Facebook messages using the hashtag #heatstroke.

General Motors, Chevrolet and OnStar have signed on to encourage their social communities to join the conversations.

"Even one death is too many, so we are grateful to have support from the GM Foundation to raise awareness about heatstroke prevention," said Kate Carr, president and CEO of Safe Kids Worldwide.

"By partnering with NHTSA for 'National Heatstroke Awareness Day,' we hope to reach parents and caregivers across the nation and put a stop to these tragic losses."

Through Safe Kids and its network of 600 coalitions and chapters across the nation, the "Never Leave Your Child Alone in a Car" campaign provides parents and caregivers safety tips and tactics to help prevent unnecessary deaths due to heatstroke.

For more information and related safety tips, visit www.safekids.org/heatstroke.

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