



# Made in Northwest Illinois

## NW ILLINOIS

Economic Development

*Celebrating 15 Years in Business!*

### SPOTLIGHTING BUSINESSES IN CARROLL AND JO DAVIESS COUNTIES



## Common Sense Manufacturing



Milledgeville, Illinois, a town of 1,085 people, is home to Carroll Industrial Molds Inc., and Carroll Innovative Manufacturing. It is also one of the town's biggest employer with 18 "home grown" employees.

But CIM is big stuff outside the city limits in more ways than one. Housed in a 36,000 square foot building, this 38-year-old family owned business produces molds for foam products such as retail coolers, pharmaceutical shipping containers, automotive parts, appliance parts and appliance packaging as well as mold components on the industrial side of their business. On the Innovative side of the business, the company specifically supplies small or large batch machining, tools and/or coating, based on customer supplied information and designs.

To the non-manufacturing savvy population, a mold is a hollowed out block - or negative cavity space - that sets the

shape of the product being made. A material is injected to create the part or tool. Molds can be made of different materials, the most common of which are aluminum, steel, alloys and copper.

At CIM, all molds are made of 98% aluminum, with the other 2% being brass, steel or urethane.

Products from both of these companies have had global distribution, although most are distributed primarily to North American manufacturers.

However, big companies do infringe on CIM's customer base, pushing out the smaller companies such as them.

Curt Dusing, Owner and President of CIM, says they are always looking to grow the business and expand into additional ventures. According to him, adding the Innovative side of the business was a natural progression. "It is just common sense manufacturing," he said.

Since they make all their own tools and parts for their operation, they are totally self-sufficient. Combined with

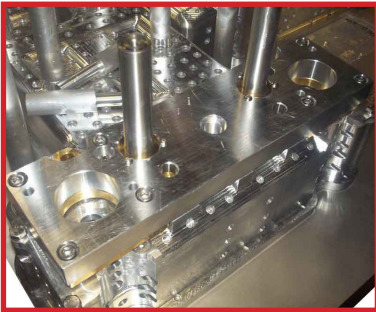
their total state of the art CNC automation and machines that can run 24 hours a day unattended once set, the businesses are capable of producing much more.

"We're always looking for new business. We'll manufacture anything we can make money on," Curt said. "We are always trying to think of what's the next thing we can make."

Curt says he is actively and aggressively talking to other companies across the country about making their products with CIM in the U.S. instead of abroad.

"We also want to see what we can do to help more local businesses with their needs as well, instead of having to go outside the area for them," Curt said, noting that their location and overhead is going to reflect on lowering the customer's cost in many ways.

Curt specifically sites a project the company took on during COVID when



Aluminum mold



CIM "home grown" employee base of 18

a supplier for the Pfizer multi-national pharmaceutical corporation contracted them to produce 10+ molds resulting in 100,000 + foam shipping containers for the distribution of the vaccine world-wide. Needless to say, COVID did not cause a halt in his own production or impact his employee base.

And while the employee base is slim and trim, Kyle Knutti, Vice President of CIM, says they are always looking for CNC Programmers and Operators. Individuals with Solid Works software skills and 3-D CAD designers are also sought after.

"We're always trying to find these people," Kyle said.

As a result, CIM has partnered up with Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. (BEST, Inc.), a non-profit agency that administers federally-funded programs such as Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) in Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Putnam and Whiteside Counties. Its focus is assisting dislocated workers, adults and youth gain meaningful employment through training, internships, job search assistance and work experience.

According to Kyle, they currently employ three on-the-job trainees through BEST, Inc., in addition to a one individual who came to them off the street - all who BEST is helping CIM with providing funding for their training.

What Kyle and Curt do want people to know about their company is that their employees are also an important part of it and how much they value them. And that means looking towards their future.

With the recent installation of machinery that will allow them to

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produce vacuum formed plastic products, they are looking to expand and optimize in other innovative ways.

"We are a small, family oriented

business with skills, capabilities and capacity to manufacture a wide variety of products for many different applications," concluded Kyle.



There's more than meets the eye when you drive by Carroll Industrial Molds, Inc. Inside houses EVS Hobbies USA, a retail and e-commerce store which stocks and sells hobby grade remote control cars (RC), drones, planes, boats and helicopters, along with replacement and upgrade parts for a multitude of remote control vehicles.

"You can't believe the look on people's faces when they come in and discover the hobby shop," says Curt Dusing, Owner and President of EVS (as well as CIM).

EVS is an evolutionary business which started out in 1996 as Electric Vehicle Solutions producing custom components and kits to convert full size gas vehicles, like the Chevrolet S-10, to electric vehicles. When the endeavor ceased to be lucrative - having been ahead of its time - a new company rose from the ashes: RC hobbyist products. Today, EVS is the premier distributor of Just Bash It RC products (manufactured by CIM).

According to Curt his love of the race car hobby and ability to stock and even make parts for his hobby turned it into a full-scale operation. The store now has 5000+ parts in inventory in house with RC's that can range in price up to \$5,000 with

## Take an Even Closer Look Inside CIM!

motors that can go as fast as 80 mph and more.

"Let's face it," Curt says of his RC products. "If we aren't breaking it, then we probably aren't driving it hard enough."

If EVS can't find you the part you broke, chances are Carroll Industrial Molds, Inc. can make it for you if Curt has anything to say about it.

"We want people to know we are a hobby shop, but also that we produce custom machine components too," he says.

And although EVS caters to the experienced hobbyist, it also promotes interest through his involvement in groups and organizations within and outside the community.

Future EVS endeavors also include expanding to other hobby related items such as paints for RC cars and models, as well as collectibles such as miniature die cast "GoatGuns," models that assemble like the real versions do (www.goatguns.com).



## Contact Details

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