

MEP Success Stories

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

JECO PLASTIC PRODUCTS, PLAINFIELD, INDIANA



Greg Wyatt
Mechanical Engineer
Jeco Plastic Products

“ *We're not a big company, but we do a lot of international work. The big thing Purdue MEP helped us with is cybersecurity, and working to meet cybersecurity requirements on Department of Defense contracts.”*



Manufacturing Extension Partnership



**Purdue MEP helps
Jeco Plastic Products
meet cybersecurity
standards.**

“We could not have entered new markets, nor remained in our existing international markets, without assistance from Purdue MEP. We would never have realized assistance was available if MEP had not contacted us. The grant relief allowed us to capitalize on such services.”

CRAIG CARSON
PRESIDENT AND CEO
JECO PLASTIC PRODUCTS

Plainfield plastics manufacturer also utilizes Purdue MEP to gain ISO 9001-2015 certification

When Jeco Plastic Products needed to meet new certification standards for quality management and cybersecurity measures for Department of Defense (DOD) and aerospace markets, the company turned to the Purdue University Manufacturing Extension Partnership for help.

The Plainfield-based company makes plastic products for automotive, commercial printing, industrial manufacturing, scientific and military applications, specializing in plastic pallets.

"The majority of our products (plastic pallets) go to international customers," says Saadoon Khudidah, chief engineer at Jeco. "We also work with Xerox, Owens Corning and automotive companies like Cummins."

When company officials wanted to work with the DOD and aerospace firms, they discovered they needed some assistance.

"As we started doing projects for the government, we found out there's a lot of stuff we didn't know," says Craig Carson, Jeco's president and CEO. "Aaron Ramsey (of Purdue MEP) let us know that we needed a cybersecurity rating. And now we have ISO 9001-2015 certification (for a quality management system) so we can do work for the DOD and other agencies."

Greg Wyatt, a mechanical engineer at Jeco, explains how the company is earning its cybersecurity rating.

"Along with some other people here, I took a cybersecurity auditing course offered by MEP so that we can audit our processes and make sure that we do what we say we're doing," he says. "We're now in the remediation process, correcting things that another company found when they audited us for cybersecurity requirements."

"As we meet DOD cybersecurity requirements, it helps us

be more secure overall, even on non-DOD projects. One of the biggest hurdles is change — to go from what we've always done to what is secure, especially on the internet."

Purdue has assisted Jeco in other ways.

"We've done plenty of R&D with Purdue, too," Khudidah says. "One project we worked on with them involved armor and trying to reduce the weight of military vehicles by reducing the amount of metal, and using composite materials. Purdue helped us with that by using simulation."

The collaboration with Purdue already is paying off for Jeco, Carson says.



Craig Carson and Saadoon Khudidah

"Although most of the benefits will not be realized immediately, in the first 12 months Jeco's sales increased by \$400,000, and we retained sales of 20% of our current sales volume which we would otherwise have lost or seen diminish," he says. "We also increased our workforce by 30% and

increased pay by 35%, substantially increased investment in working capital, R&D, and capital equipment, as well as \$15,000 in new information systems and software, and \$40,000 in employee training."

Working with Purdue has impressed Carson.

Purdue's MEP provides cost-effective and results-oriented training on quality management systems that can help businesses meet requirements and improve their bottom lines. All workshops are facilitated by instructors who have experience in both manufacturing and quality management systems. Workshops available include ISO 9001, IATF 16949, AS 9100D, ISO 13485 and ISO 14001.

For more information, visit quality.mep.purdue.edu/quality-management-system-qms-training/



ABOUT MEP

Purdue MEP provides high-value solutions that help Indiana businesses maximize their success by increasing profits, reducing costs and implementing growth systems. Our organization serves more than 500 companies annually by implementing continuous improvement principles in the areas of productivity, growth and technology. Purdue MEP has helped our clients collectively achieve over \$4 billion in economic impact in Indiana since 2005.

CONTACT US:

PURDUE MEP: MEP.PURDUE.EDU / 800-877-5182

JECO PLASTIC PRODUCTS: JECOPLASTICS.COM / 800-593-5326