

**Dotson
IRON
CASTINGS**

DOTSON DIFFERENCE

becoming the world's most agile foundry

NEW EQUIPMENT SAVES TIME & LOWERS COSTS

June 1, 2011

**Dotson
IRON
CASTINGS** 35 Years
Apr 12, 1976 - 2011



Alane Reichel

Thanks for being on our team!

Jean Byge President
John Dunbar Supervisor
Alane Reichel Chairman

My Voice

Alane Reichel
Inside Sales

As I reflect back on my 35 years at Dotson, the one thing that stands out for me is the people. Dotson has a fantastic group of customers and I have enjoyed all the personal connections I've made with these customers over the years. And I appreciate the great group of Dotson employees who stand ready to support me as I make commitments to these customers. It makes my job of meeting the needs of the customers much easier to know that the Dotson organization is so very capable of excellent execution. It has been an exciting past ten years as Dotson has become lean, shortened lead times, improved delivery, and entered into the world of internal machining -all of which enhance the customer's experience. I can't wait to see what the next ten years brings!

Bio: Alane Reichel

Alane has been the key customer service contact at Dotson for 35 years. She is the individual who can work miracles. Whether it's a line down or other customer crisis, Alane has the entire Dotson plant behind her as she guides them through the thousands of orders to assure the needs of the customer are met. Not only does the plant work off real-time schedules managed dynamically by Alane, but the foremen check in with her multiple times a day to assure we are on track. When Alane says something you can rely on it. Eight of the last 12 quarters have been above 98% on-time. That comes from Alane guiding the team. She is Dotson's secret competitive edge.

And Alane is just as comfortable with a gun or a fishing pole as she is with a schedule and a telephone. When not at work you'll probably find her fishing in the Dakotas or hunting for deer or turkey.

Next time you are on the phone or emailing Alane, join us in congratulating her on her 35 years!

Trim Press

New Equipment Saves Time & Lowers Cost

With a strong focus on continuous improvement and a goal to become the world's most agile foundry Dotson began to look for ways to improve the production process and didn't have to look much farther than the finishing room to identify the next opportunity. In 2010 Jim Headington, Dotson's Engineering Manager, and a core group wanted to figure out how to make the finishing area flow more smoothly; especially when it came to higher volume jobs where in many cases the molding takt time and the finishing takt time on the current CNC automated grinding machines were not well matched. The teams' hard work and effort are now near completion and in June Dotson will welcome an Automated Trim Press as the newest piece of equipment to the foundry. Added benefits of the trim press include: Cycle times of less than 8 seconds, auto unload, 10 minute tooling changeovers, improved casting finish, consistent flash removal, ability to straighten castings while processing, programmable quality check points. Be sure to contact your Dotson sales representative to learn more about the Trim Press and to begin taking advantage of the cost savings.



Machining: One Year Later Customers Seeing Results & Benefits!

It has been almost one year since we started our machining department with two lathes, one vertical mill, and four employees. Today the machining center looks much different due to the addition of a Makino A71 Horizontal Machining Center and a HAAS TL tool room lathe. In addition to the new machines we have added four new employees and plan to bring in two more for a total of ten employees over three full shifts. Our growth has been exciting and challenging at the same time. As we move forward we are working to align our machining center with our current business philosophy of agility so our customers can begin to reap the benefits of purchasing machine complete castings from a single source. As our competition is extending lead times we continue to offer 4 week lead times on machine complete castings to our customers. Be sure to check our website often for machining updates.



Metalcasting Congress Update from the Show

The 115th Annual AFS Metalcasting Congress took place in Schaumburg, IL this year and was filled with technical sessions as well as various exhibits from industry suppliers and foundries. Informational sessions specifically designed for casting buyers and designers were also available throughout the week. Traffic for the show was excellent. With over 1,600 attendees over four days, contacts and leads were plentiful. AFS is already planning for next year's 116th Metalcasting Congress in Columbus, Ohio, April 17-20, 2012. We hope to see you there!

115th METALCASTING
APRIL 5-8, 2011
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS CONGRESS



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DOTSON DIFFERENCE
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