**Manufacturers willing to step up to help;**

**despite anxiety and cash flow concerns**

**For Immediate Release:**

Windsor, ON- In a recent survey to our members and even non-members working in manufacturing, three quarters of companies who responded were willing to help with medical devices and/or equipment manufacturing.

We also know cash flow, employee retention and anxiety are key issues facing us in these difficult times.

Both the Canadian Association of Mold Makers (CAMM) and Automate Canada released the results of a COVID-19 impact survey as soon as we could tally results. Our goal is to inform and also use these results to help advocate for support for an industry deemed essential not only to our economy as well as to help with supply chain and to possibly pivot to help with any pending crisis in medical equipment.

“We want to help and deal with concerns of workers, managers, owners in an ever-changing landscape, “says CAMM Board Chair Mike Bilton. “We know these surveys are crucial in helping us keep updated about our industry.”

Automate Canada Chair Shelley Fellows agrees and adds that the collaboration shown in the industry and with local, provincial and national organizations is also a plus.

“We have teams in place with Automate Canada and CAMM. We meet daily and sometimes hourly. We are sharing info to work for the best interests of industries for which many of us have a great passion. So we appreciate everyone who takes the time to complete the survey.”

“We are keeping them short and we know the info is not just valuable but necessary”

The survey went to contacts in Canadian manufacturing, moldmaking and industrial automation sectors earlier this week.

We had 93 respondents – for our first of what could be many surveys – and responses were primarily from the Southwestern Ontario region, which has a significant manufacturing, moldmaking and industrial automation cluster.

It was immediately clear that the COVID-19 crisis is already having a significant impact on these businesses.

* Almost 65% of respondents were companies under 50 employees in size
* Two-thirds of respondents had some employees off work on self isolation or quarantine (while one-third had none)
* Layoffs are already starting to hit hard at some workplaces, with over 700 employees from 25% of respondents on either temporary or permanent layoffs
* To date, manufacturers have been impacted by worker anxiety, project cancellations, travel cancellations and the challenges of adapting to working from home. The risk of losing employees, cancelled projects and declining sales were also big stress points
* Anticipated challenges in coming weeks are cash flow, employee retention, health and safety and supply chain risks
* 75% of companies who responded were willing to help with medical devices and/or equipment manufacturing and will be connected to industry in several different ways

This survey will be released each week for the next several weeks in order to gather data on the impact COVID-19 is having on the Canadian manufacturing sector. The goal is to assist manufacturers, mold makers and industrial automation companies through these difficult and rapidly changing times and to understand best practises and responses should another crisis hit us.

CAMM is a not-for-profit industry driven association focusing on the Canadian mold making sector of Canada. Automate Canada is a not-for-profit industry driven association focusing on the industrial automation and advanced manufacturing technology sectors of Canada. Both are based in Windsor, Ontario and are affiliated with the Auto Parts Manufacturers Association (APMA) in Canada and Automation Alley in Michigan, USA.

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