May 15, 2020

**Manufacturing ramp up accelerating**

(Windsor, Ontario) Ramp up is underway in manufacturing and automation – with health and safety and a mostly closed border being some key issues for manufacturers.

“We continue as associations to work together to stay ahead of the curve,” say CAMM Chair Mike Bilton.

'Between the feedback from our impact survey over the last several weeks, and the conversations we've had with companies one on one, we've been able to analyze both positive and negative trends, which ultimately, enables us to steer our focus and support to current, and near future challenges and opportunities.

Automate Canada and the Canadian Association of Moldmakers (CAMM) have conducted surveys of the mold, tool, die & industrial automation sectors in Canada since mid March, connecting with essential businesses vital to restarting Canada’s economic engine.

The results, attached, are from the eighth week of surveys from the Canadian Association of Moldmakers (CAMM) & Automate Canada.

After 2 months of weekly surveys, the most recent indicates the ramp up in these sectors is gaining momentum.

The numbers of employees leaving the workplace is shrinking, while recalls & hiring have increased. Further, the number of workplaces that were almost completely shut down during the peak of the COVID-19 crisis has reduced significantly as they scale back up to meet the demand of manufacturers who are themselves restarting production in the coming weeks.

“We know that the closure of the Canada/US border has caused challenges for our workplaces”, Shelley Fellows, Chair of Automate Canada notes “With the recent extension to the border closure to non-essential travel, the pressure is on to sort out how best to support our customers outside of Canada.”

The focus for manufacturing continues to be how to address return to work guidelines for workplace health & safety.

Bilton says keeping in touch with our community of manufacturers, and advocating for them through this entire phase has been a number one focus.

“From health and safety, to project status, to connecting companies to the government for financial support the work by this volunteer board and our staff has been exceptional.”

Financial concerns continue to weigh heavily on respondents, which represent primarily the mold, tool & die industry as well as industrial automation sector. CAMM and Automate Canada have been assisted in the distribution of each week’s survey by the Canadian Tooling & Machining Association (CTMA).

NOTE: The survey will now shift to a monthly schedule based on the ramp up and the drop off in survey participants.

FACT SHEET

Responses this week were primarily from the Southwestern Ontario region, which has a significant manufacturing, moldmaking and industrial automation cluster.

Key Points:

* The number of employees out of the workplace due to isolation or quarantine is down this week - 53 in total.
* The number of employees temporarily laid off decreased this week to a total of 103.
* According to our responses, workplaces most frequently put employees on temporary layoffs because they didn’t qualify for CEWS.
* This week, respondents reported hiring 15 new employees, on a steady increase from the low point experienced in week 5.
* The rate of project cancellations has moderated, temporary delays have declined this week and both new programs and new RFQs are strong.
* 32% of our respondents have US corporations, 32% have Mexican corporations and 10% have businesses in India or elsewhere.
* 60% of our respondents said they have sufficient PPE in their workplaces, leaving 40% reporting that they do not have sufficient supplies (this is down slightly from last week)
* Last week, we saw more issues with a complete lack of product; this week, it’s limitations in quantities that are driving shortages.

***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.***

***Automate Canada and CAMM are proud to support Rapid Response Platform (RRP), an instant visibility matching platform that connects supply and demand of COVID-19 related supplies, such as input materials and end products for PPE. Find out more about this initiative which has received broad Canadian industry support, and participate by posting your needs or supplies at***[***http://rrpcanada.org***](http://rrpcanada.org/)

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