

EDITORIAL SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

The IW editorial team is working on the following stories for the **1st quarter 2009**. If you have information or a case study that can help shape these articles, contact the IW editor listed at the bottom of the feature/department before the editorial date listed. Please remember to include your contact information. (NOTE: Do not submit finished articles for publication in the magazine. Editors will not be able to use everything received.)

To submit articles for publication on IndustryWeek.com, please send queries first to Adrienne Selko, IW eMedia Editor at aselko@industryweek.com.

January Features

EDITORIAL CLOSE: 10/28/08**AD CLOSE: 11/27/08****AD MATERIALS DUE: 12/3/08****MAIL DATE: 12/22/08**

IW Best Plants

The IW Best Plants program recognizes 10 plants from across North America for their best practices in employee motivation, inventory management, quality and other key performance indicators. IW spotlights the 10 winners and their strategies for continuous improvement in this popular special series of articles. The IW Best Plants program is an institution in manufacturing, offering a benchmarking template for other companies to measure their performance against. This special feature also offers a preview of the 2009 IW Best Plants Conference, to be held April 27-29 in Nashville. If you have an idea for this article, please contact **Senior Editor Jill Jusko**, jjusko@industryweek.com.

Wireless and RFID

Wireless technologies such as RFID (radio frequency identification), bar codes and machine monitoring provide the ability to move material handling data instantly, thereby improving efficiency and productivity. This article will highlight the best practices of manufacturers who are doing all the right things with their wireless strategies. In addition, we'll offer an overview of current RFID tags and software products in our monthly "Information Technology" department. If you have an idea for this article, please contact **Editor-in-Chief Dave Blanchard**, dblanchard@industryweek.com.

Alternate Energy Sources

The world's seemingly endless appetite for more energy is driving urgent calls for renewable fuels and alternative energy sources, such as biofuels, wind power and solar energy. This article explores which of these alternatives offer the most potential, and showcases the lessons learned from several early-adopter manufacturers who have realigned their operations to accommodate non-fossil fuel-based energy sources. If you have an idea for this article, please contact **Senior Technology Editor John Teresko**, jteresko@industryweek.com.

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February Features

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NAFTA: Doing Business with Canada and Mexico

An IW reader poll indicates that U.S. manufacturers have yet to be convinced that the North American Free Trade Agreement has proven to be worth the effort, with the majority saying NAFTA needs to be renegotiated. Some say the terms with Canada are fine, but there are real problems south of the border. And yet, trade between the U.S. and its two closest partners has increased dramatically since NAFTA went into effect. This article will address the pros and cons of the NAFTA deal, and will also examine the effect the agreement has had on manufacturers in all three North American countries. If you have an idea for this article, please contact **eMedia Editor Adrienne Selko**,

Process vs. Discrete Manufacturing

Process manufacturers (chemical, food & beverage, pharmaceutical, etc.) invest much more heavily in automation and production technology than discrete manufacturers. Discrete manufacturers (automotive, aerospace, computers, medical devices, etc.), for their part, are much more heavily invested in labor-intensive assembly work. And yet the conventional wisdom offered by management gurus tends to lump all manufacturing companies into one large, homogeneous group. This article will explore how discrete and process manufacturers are learning from each other, while defining the most relevant differences in how these industry sectors address continuous improvement within their operations. If you have an idea for this article, please contact **Managing Editor Jonathan Katz**, jkatz@industryweek.com.

Achieving Operational Excellence: OEE (Overall Equipment Effectiveness)

The consequences of missed or ignored production equipment maintenance range from lost production to costly and perhaps fatal safety mishaps. OEE offers a way for companies to measure the efficiency of their major production lines. Since manufacturers have very little margin of error when it comes to keeping their equipment running, this article will explore preventative maintenance, predictive maintenance and Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) strategies companies can use to reduce equipment downtime and reactive maintenance efforts. If you have an idea for this article, please contact **Senior Editor Jill Jusko**, jjusko@industryweek.com.

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March Features

EDITORIAL CLOSE: 12/23/08 AD CLOSE: 01/22/08 AD MATERIALS DUE: 01/26/08 MAIL DATE: TBD

IW's 2008 Salary Survey

This special feature explores the very nature of the manufacturing profession by involving the entire IW community as active participants. Much more than just a look at dollars-and-cents and pay stubs, this article examines job satisfaction, workforce and workplace issues, managerial challenges and geographical comparisons. In addition, it addresses the leadership role that manufacturing professionals play in guiding the management and success of their companies. If you have an idea for this article, please contact **Editor-in-Chief Dave Blanchard**, dblanchard@industryweek.com.

Integrating Lean IT

This article will look at how manufacturing companies are taking the necessary steps to bridge the cultural gap between the IT department and the production department thanks to the integration of lean IT. Manufacturers are winning in the marketplace by aligning their continuous improvement and IT goals by establishing a common methodology and creating a central team for projects. It's not just a matter of choosing the right solutions, nor is it merely a management challenge. As IW's Best Plants winners have demonstrated, it takes an orchestrated effort to get everybody on the plant floor on the same IT page. If you have an idea for this article, please contact **Associate Editor Nick Zubko**, nzubko@industryweek.com.

Digital Manufacturing

Digital prototyping is an example of emerging manufacturing technology that offers increased efficiency and reduced costs as it allows the visualization of a "finished" product before it is actually made. This article looks at how several major companies are adopting strategies that enable them to develop products more quickly by accelerating their information cycle times. If you have an idea for this article, please contact **Senior Technology Editor John Teresko**, jteresko@industryweek.com.

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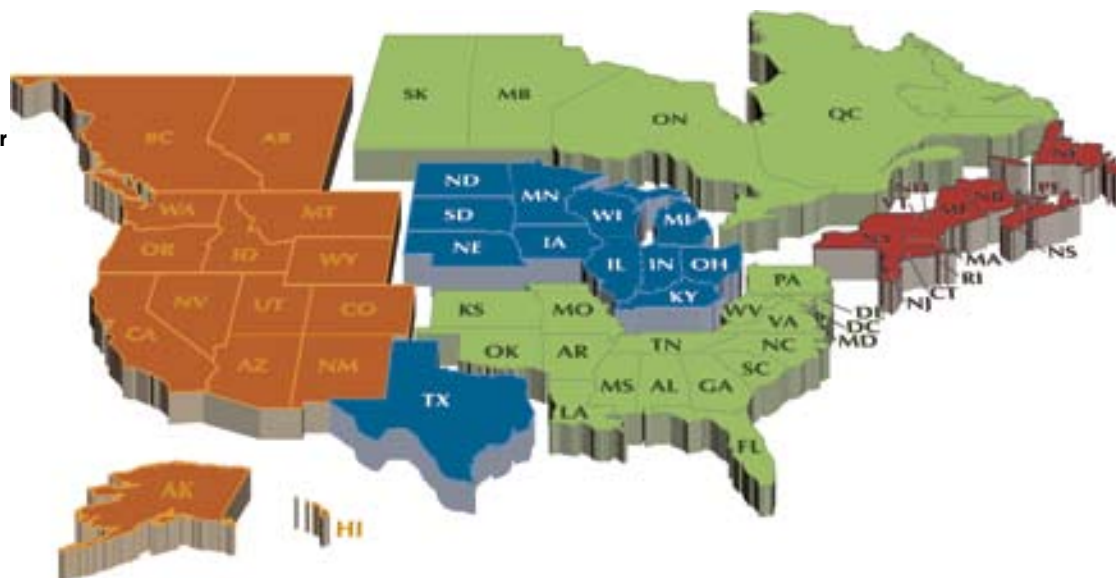
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