

RAMPF introduces Close Contour Casting in the US

Modeling and mold engineering expert sets up facilities for innovative casting technique to produce high-quality close contour models

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Wixom, Michigan, April 29, 2016. RAMPF Group, Inc., a leading provider of modeling and mold engineering materials based in Wixom, Michigan, is introducing the ground-breaking RAKU-TOOL[®] Close Contour Casting technology in the U.S. market. Using vacuum casting equipment, close contour models are casted seamlessly smooth with fine surface structure and high dimensional stability. These castings are produced without the need for conventional, time-consuming model construction.

With RAKU-TOOL[®] Close Contour Casting, RAMPF customers in the aerospace, automotive, marine, motorsports, railway, and wind energy sectors in the NAFTA market now have access to a groundbreaking technology for producing master models cubing models, molds, and fixtures.

RAKU-TOOL[®] Close Contour Castings, made of cast polyurethane with a density of 0.8 g/cm³, are supplied to the customer as a near net shape of the customer's CAD data. The production process takes place in-house at RAMPF Group, Inc. using the customer's areal data. A lightweight close contour mold is constructed using RAKU-TOOL[®] board material or a combination of board material and EPS. The mold is then machined, a release agent applied, and then the mold is filled using a special casting process with a 2-component mixing and dispensing system. After demolding and post cure of the casting, it is returned to the customer for finish machining.



In the automotive industry, RAKU-TOOL[®] Close Contour Casting technology is also used for the manufacture of 1:1 size models.

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“With our close contour technology, conventional and time-consuming model construction is no longer required, as there is no need to bond board material,” explains Mark Davidson, Sales Manager for Tooling Material at RAMPF Group, Inc. “There is no handling of liquid chemistry required, so customers can concentrate solely on milling. Furthermore, less manual finishing is required as the surface is seamless, smooth, very dense, and free from bubbles due to our vacuum casting process.”

RAKU-TOOL[®] Close Contour Castings are of similar quality to the renowned range of RAKU-TOOL[®] modeling boards, but without the bonding lines. The material has good dimensional stability, fine surface structure, and is isotropic similar to the board material. Furthermore, there are ecological advantages – the close-contour shape of the casting uses less material, causes less waste, and requires less time and energy for milling.

Tooling chemistry laboratory to be set up

The introduction of RAKU-TOOL[®] Close Contour Casting technology is a further milestone in the ongoing technology transfer between RAMPF Group, Inc. and German-based RAMPF Tooling Solutions, a leading developer and producer of board, liquid materials, and semi-finished products for modeling and mold engineering. “With first-class modeling and styling boards, the entire range of Close Contour products – castings, blocks, and pastes –, as well as liquid systems for various manufacturing processes, construction methods, and applications we can offer our customers a unique and encompassing product and service portfolio for innovative modeling and mold engineering,” Mark Davidson emphasizes. “In the near future, we will also be setting up our own tooling chemistry laboratory, which will enable us to serve our customers even better and faster.”

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RAMPF Group, Inc., based in Wixom, Michigan, is the North American subsidiary of the international RAMPF Group.

The product portfolio of RAMPF Group, Inc. is comprised of:

- > mixing and dispensing systems for the reliable processing of polymers
- > two-component polymer (or synthetic) systems based on polyurethane, epoxy, and silicone
- > modeling and mold engineering materials, in particular for the automotive, marine, and aviation industries

The international RAMPF Group stands for engineering and chemical solutions and caters to the economic and ecological needs of industry. The Group secures its presence on the international markets with more than 700 employees and six core competencies:

- > **RAMPF Machine Systems** based in Wangen (Göppingen), Germany, develops and produces multi-axis positioning and moving systems, trunk machines, and basic machines based on high-precision machine beds and machine bed components made from alternative materials.
- > **RAMPF Production Systems** based in Zimmern o. R., Germany, develops and produces mixing and dispensing systems for bonding, sealing, foaming, and casting a wide variety of materials. The company also offers a wide range of automation skills relating to all aspects of process engineering.
- > **RAMPF Composite Solutions** based in Burlington, Ontario, Canada, is a holistic composites supplier to companies in the aerospace, defense, and medical industries. The company offers a complete suite of services including composite part design and engineering, metal-to-composite conversion engineering, and composite manufacturing to very tight tolerances.
- > **RAMPF Eco Solutions** based in Pirmasens, Germany, develops chemical solutions for the manufacture of high-quality alternative polyols from PU and PET waste materials. This expertise is also put to use in the planning and construction of customer-specific facilities for manufacturing polyols.
- > **RAMPF Polymer Solutions** based in Grafenberg, Germany, develops and produces reactive resin systems based on polyurethane, epoxy, and silicone. Its product portfolio includes liquid and thixotropic sealing systems, electro and engineering casting resins, edge and filter casting resins, and adhesives.
- > **RAMPF Tooling Solutions** based in Grafenberg, Germany, develops and produces board and liquid materials and semi-finished goods for cutting-edge modeling and mold engineering. The range of skills includes made-to-measure services and products such as pastes, large-volume and full-size castings for Close Contour models, and prototyping systems.

RAMPF has subsidiaries in Germany, the U.S., Canada, Japan, and China.

All RAMPF companies are united under a holding company – RAMPF Holding GmbH & Co. KG – based in Grafenberg, Germany.

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