



National Tooling & Machining Association

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PRESS RELEASE

Rockford Tooling & Machining Association, Chapter of the NTMA and Blackhawk Bank Announce Joint Plan

ROCKFORD, IL (March 23, 2009)—The Rockford Tooling & Machining Association (RTMA) chapter of the National Tooling & Machining Association (NTMA) has announced an agreement with Blackhawk Bank to help the RTMA grow.

Blackhawk Bank has offered to sponsor up to five small metalworking shops with their RTMA/NTMA membership for one year each. "It is the least we can do to promote the welfare of the manufacturing community in this difficult economic environment," said Rick Bastian, Blackhawk Bank president and CEO. "It is my hope that the membership subsidy will give those who don't think they can afford the RTMA, the opportunity to see the value it brings to their company. In this environment, we are all in this together." Bastian said he hoped other banks in the area would follow Blackhawk's example in supporting local manufacturing.

"We're hoping this generous offer will help some smaller shops in the area realize how important it can be to belong to a national organization with local roots that is trying to help all grow and prosper," said RTMA President Doug Mason of EWT/3DCNC, Inc.

The NTMA is the largest metalworking trade association in the U.S. and works hard to be the voice of the industry in Washington, while at the same time provides a number of business-related services to its 1,600 corporate members in 47 chapters around the U.S. For more information about the NTMA contact them at (800) 248-6862 or send e-mail to info@ntma.org. Its website also contains information: www.ntma.org.

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