

**Winsert, Inc.**  
**Marinette, Wisconsin**  
**Annual Report for 2008**

## **Introduction**

Winsert, Inc. is a family owned business with a single location in Marinette, WI. The 70,000 square foot facility contains Research and Development, Foundry and Machine Shop where heat, wear and corrosion resistant alloy products are produced to supply a wide variety of products to a world-wide base of customers.

Winsert, Inc. was formally accepted into the Green Tier Program on May 6, 2008 after being ISO-14001 certified since the year 2000.

## **Executive Summary**

Since becoming ISO-14001 certified, Winsert has aggressively used its resources toward finding “green” improvements in all facets of operation. This decision was a directive from the Founder and Chairman of the Board Stephen Dickinson and current President Trisha Dickinson. Quarterly Environmental Meetings are held to monitor improvements, set goals and establish specific objectives.

Prior to being certified in the Green Tier Program, Winsert had instituted a company-wide recycling program that included the recycling of all chips, grindings, light bulbs, monitors, batteries, paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and cans. Improvements were also made in scrap reduction, energy use, water use and the reduction of hazardous materials usage.

In 2009, Winsert is committed to process improvements, further reductions of natural gas use, electricity use and scrap.

## **Environmental Performance**

The following are the significant environmental performance improvements made during 2008:

- A 100% elimination of hazardous waste use and generation. New processes were implemented that have eliminated the need for any hazardous chemicals. Hazardous materials that were eliminated include Sulfur Dioxide, Sulfuric Acid, Trichloroethylene, Oxidizer, Caustic Soda, Citric Acid and Electrolytic Acid. They were replaced with processes that either used no chemical or a non-hazardous one.

- A 100% elimination of process waste water. Two key new processes were installed that allowed for process water to be cleaned and reused. The new centralized filtration system recycles all of the machine shop coolant water. The water is regularly tested and managed to prevent the need for disposal into the city waste water system. 100% of the waste that is removed by this system is sold to another company that recycles it. The second system accomplishes a similar objective for the vibrodyne deburring process. Winsert is no longer required to keep a waste water permit with the City of Marinette.
- High bay fluorescent lighting has now been installed in 1/3 of the plant to replace old, inefficient lighting. The replacement plan will continue until the entire plant is using the high efficient lighting.
- Energy used by three compressors was reduced dramatically in 2008. Improvements were made in leak detection and repair, as well as the implementation of air use reduction nozzles. The entire plant now uses air from a single 75 hp compressor which allowed the 100 hp and 50 hp compressors to be shut off completely.

## **EMS Audit**

- The most recent external ISO-14001 audit was completed by TUV Rheinland on June 12-13, 2008. The entire company was reviewed and there were no deviations found. The excellent findings were summarized by the auditor, to quote: "The organization has demonstrated evidence of its commitment to continual improvement and prevention of pollution..."
- The results ISO-14001 audit completed by internal audit team mirrored the results found by the TUV Rheinland audit. All areas were found to be in complete compliance with the standard.
- On December 2, 2008 an environmental compliance assessment was completed by Foth of Green Bay, WI. The findings showed that Winsert was 100% in compliance with all local, state and federal regulations. Recommendations were made to test waste oil to confirm it is "on-specification," document "universal" waste handling training, test solid wastes sent to sanitary landfills, conduct semi-dry storm water inspections and update spill prevention control and countermeasure training.

## **Stakeholder Involvement**

All employees participate in EMS programs and are regularly trained in activities related to their job function. A large bulletin board in the center of the plant keep everyone informed on the results of all EMS audits/ testing, company objectives and meetings.

All suppliers were sent a letter encouraging their involvement in green initiatives and the pursuit of ISO-14001 certification.

## **DNR Relationship**

Winsert encourages the Wisconsin DNR to use Winsert's successes as a benchmark for other companies to follow. There was a time when Winsert's "lofty" goals seemed next to impossible to ever accomplish. Although it has taken years of testing and evaluation, all of the largest and most ambitious goals have been met. Winsert is not only greener, but much more efficient because of the initiative set forth by the Owner and President years ago.

## **Concluding Comments**

Winsert would like to thank the State for its leadership in environmental initiatives and programs which have inspired companies like ours to not only comply with legislative requirements, but to also exceed and excel in the protection of our environment. We look forward to reporting our future improvements and accomplishments to our colleagues and friends of the great state of Wisconsin.