



## CUSTOMER PROFILE

## Rapid prototyping helps reach goals of “fit, form, function” Baker Manufacturing | Evansville, WI

Evansville, WI-based Baker Manufacturing has three business divisions: Baker casting, Monitor Water Supply and Haight Pumps. Its casting division produces gray and ductile iron custom castings for automotive, marine, and agricultural market. Its Monitor water supply division produces water system products for residential and municipal applications. Haight pumps produces rotary gear pumps for a wide variety of fluid pumping applications.

“Fit, form and function” are the key components of what 3D printing brings to the production process at Baker, says Tom Moon, Engineering Manager.

In the foundry, Dimension printer prototype parts are used in the actual patternmaking process, as the printer part is pressed into sand to create a “negative” of the casting.

Along with the cost savings realized from being able to do prototyping in-house, versus sending out projects, prototypes assist Baker’s engineers in determining clearances before a part goes to production.

“Prototyping helps with the little nuances that you can’t detect until you put it (a part) together. It allows us to get it right before we go to tooling.”

The Dimension printer Baker Manufacturing purchased has become such an integral part of the workflow, it even has a name. “Sally,” the young, modern printer, now stands just across the room from “Betsy,” the traditional plotter. “Sally” quickly found herself pressed into service upon her arrival at Baker, rendering parts for various projects.

“The first 28 days we had her (Sally), she ran for 22 days straight,” Moon said.

Moon mentioned the price point of the Dimension 1200 printer as another attractive aspect of the product. Although Baker looked at other rapid prototyping alternatives, the cost of Dimension printer was at a level “where we could justify it,” Moon said.

