

Towards a Competitive South African Tooling Industry

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Abstract : Tool, Die and Mould-making (TDM) firms have been known to play a pivotal role in the growth and development of the manufacturing sectors in most economies. Their output contributes significantly to the quality, cost and delivery speed of final manufactured parts. Unfortunately, the South African Tool, Die and Mould-making manufacturers have not been competing on the local or global market in a significant way. This reality has hampered the productivity and growth of the sector thus attracting intervention. The paper explores the shortcomings South African toolmakers have to overcome to restore their competitive position globally. Results from a global benchmarking survey on the tooling sector are used to establish a roadmap of what South African toolmakers can do to become a productive, World Class force on the global market.

Keywords : competitive performance objectives, toolmakers, world-class manufacturing, lead times

Conference Title : ICIE 2015 : International Conference on Industrial Engineering

Conference Location : Cape Town, South Africa

Conference Dates : November 05-06, 2015