

MANUFACTURING OUTLOOK

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James Brown,
President/CEO

Anthony J. Augustine, Jr.,
Founder/Chairman

**COLLABORATION,
CRAFTSMANSHIP,
AND PRECISION
BUILDS PARTS AND
RELATIONSHIPS**



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Augustine Die & Mold Augustine Plastics

This award is in recognition of **Augustine Die & Mold | Augustine Plastics'** stellar reputation and trust among customers and industry peers, evident in the numerous nominations we received from our subscribers. **Augustine Die & Mold | Augustine Plastics** emerged as the **Precision Machining/ Plastic Injection Molding Company of the Year 2025** after an exhaustive evaluation by an expert panel of C-level executives, industry thought leaders, and our editorial board.

Awarded By
**MANUFACTURING
OUTLOOK**
ISSN 2689-8047



PRECISION
MACHINING/
PLASTIC INJECTION
MOLDING
COMPANY
OF THE YEAR
2025

Augustine Die & Mold
Augustine Plastics

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COLLABORATION, CRAFTSMANSHIP, AND PRECISION BUILDS PARTS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Walk onto the shop floor of Augustine Die & Mold, Inc. or Augustine Plastics, Inc. (ADM/API), and you will see a team of dedicated professionals, many of whom have worked together for decades, focused on collaboration, craftsmanship, and precision.

This is a place where integrity matters, and doing the job right always takes precedence over taking the easy route.

Located in southwestern Pennsylvania, ADM/API is quietly powering critical parts for aerospace, defense, healthcare, energy, and water/wastewater companies across the U.S. Their name carries the weight and a reputation for being the kind of supplier you don't have to worry about. You send them a complex drawing, and they'll send back a part that works perfectly—every time.

"We don't just make parts," says James Brown, president and CEO. "We solve problems, build relationships, and take care of our customers in a way that's sustainable—for them and for us."

That philosophy might sound simple. But in an industry where deadlines are brutal, tolerances are razor-thin, and the pressure to cut corners is constant, it's not easy. ADM/API's long-term success has been built not just on capability, but on character.

Listening First, Quoting Second

Before a single machine is powered up or a line of code is written, ADM/API begins each project by asking one question: What does the customer really need?

It's not unusual for customers to come in with a design that looks perfect on paper—but is difficult or prohibitively expensive to manufacture as-is. That's where ADM/API's team shines. They don't just quote blindly; ADM/API sits down, reviews every element, and talks through it—not just internally, but with the customer.

The point isn't to be negative or dismissive, but rather to acknowledge that while something can be done, there may be a better approach—and by having an open conversation about it, the outcome can be completely transformed.

A great example came during ADM/API's recent engagement with Beta Technologies, an electric aerospace company out of Vermont that's making waves in the industry. Beta had designed a highly specialized plastic injection molded part for a new aircraft platform. The design was innovative but presented some serious molding challenges due to the way the part was sectioned and how it would pack out during the injection process.

Most shops might have tried to force the part into production and dealt with warping, poor tolerance control, or scrap down the line. ADM/API took a different route. The company reached out to Beta's team, explained the risks clearly, and worked with them to modify the part for improved manufacturability. The modifications kept the critical form and function intact but simplified some of the geometry and tooling approach.

The company's transparency fostered significant trust. ADM/API didn't just secure a project—they gained a partner.

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Sometimes, saying 'no' earns you more credibility than saying 'yes' to everything. We're not trying to win every job—we're trying to win the right jobs and do them right

Not a Supplier—A Strategic Partner

ADM/API doesn’t want to be a ‘vendor.’ That word implies a transactional relationship. What ADM/API is after are long-term partnerships—collaborative relationships where they are involved early, offering design-for-manufacturability insights and making sure the part can be delivered on time, at cost, and with zero surprises.



That mindset has led to some deep, strategic relationships with major players in aerospace and defense—customers come back again not just because ADM/API hit tolerances, but because they can be counted on to think like a teammate, not a contractor.

One such example came through ATI Specialty Rolled Products, a global specialty materials company that serves customers in aerospace, defense, and other demanding markets. A large defense contractor, General Dynamics, was searching for a U.S.-based company capable of waterjet cutting titanium plates with challenging thickness and extreme precision.

There were plenty of shops that could almost do it—but ADM/API was the only one that checked every box, including technical capability, ITAR registration, AS9100D certification, and a proven track record. They landed the contract, not through flashy marketing, but through good old-fashioned execution.

Team First, Always

Walk around ADM/API’s facility and you’ll quickly notice that everyone seems to know not only what they’re doing, but why they’re doing it. That clarity of purpose doesn’t happen by

accident. It comes from a culture where people at every level—from programmers and machinists to quoting managers and engineers—are brought into the conversation early.

Whenever a new opportunity arises, the entire team is brought in. ADM/API examines the prints, checks the tolerances, reviews the materials, and discusses potential risks. If someone on the floor points out, “That’s going to be a challenging feature,” their input is heard and valued.

This openness creates buy-in and prevents costly mistakes. It also means ADM/API rarely overpromises. They’ll walk away from jobs that don’t make sense, rather than risk delivering something sub-par. And ironically, that makes customers trust them more.

“Sometimes, saying ‘no’ earns you more credibility than saying ‘yes’ to everything,” says Brown. “We’re not trying to win every job—we’re trying to win the right jobs and do them right.”

The respect ADM/API shows their internal team mirrors the respect they show customers. That’s part of what’s kept turnover incredibly low in an industry where skilled machinists, plastic processors, and toolmakers are in constant demand. Many employees have been with the company for more than 15 years, and that consistency translates into better processes, stronger culture, and higher quality.

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Full-Spectrum Capability, All in One Place

ADM/API is more than just a job shop. The company offers a rare mix of capabilities—precision machining, tool and mold manufacturing, plastic injection molding, and abrasive waterjet cutting—all under one roof. That vertical integration allows ADM/API to deliver parts that might otherwise require coordination between two or three different suppliers.

That full suite of capabilities is paired with top-tier certifications, including AS9100D for aerospace quality systems and ITAR registration for defense work. The company is also HUBZone certified, helping larger primes meet federal sourcing requirements.

Finding a shop with all of these credentials and the depth of these services under one roof isn’t easy. “In our region,” Brown says, “you’d have to drive over a thousand miles to find another company with our combination of capabilities and certifications.”



Investing in Smarter Growth

ADM/API has grown significantly in recent years—between 20 and 30 percent annually—and that growth hasn’t been random. It’s been the result of deliberate investments in technology, people, and systems.

Earlier this year, the company brought in a new five-axis machining center with a significantly larger work envelope, allowing the company to handle parts that were previously out of scope. The company also added Autodesk Fusion 360 to streamline CAD/CAM workflows and improve collaboration between engineering and programming teams.

Every new machine or software platform serves the company’s long-term strategy to improve throughput, reduce waste, and deliver better value to customers. Every new piece of equipment is evaluated for how it fits into the quoting process, scheduling system, and quality control checks. ADM/API believes that if it doesn’t integrate seamlessly, it’s not worth the investment.

The company is also exploring automation and robotics—not to replace people, but to augment their work and free up skilled labor for higher-value tasks. The idea is to build a smart, scalable system that can deliver consistent excellence, even as the complexity of customer demands continues to rise.

Doing the Right Thing, Even When No One’s Looking

There’s a word that comes up a lot in conversations with ADM/API’s team: integrity. And it’s not just a buzzword on a values poster.

The principle was put to the test in a recent job where the customer specified two acceptable materials on their drawing—Material A and Material B. A previous supplier had been using Material A, but it kept causing failures. When ADM/API received the job, the company dug into the data and realized Material B would not only solve the performance issue, but save cost.


ADM/API called the customer, explained the situation, and got the green light to switch. The result was a better part, lower cost, and a more resilient supply chain. That kind of proactive honesty is what turns customers into lifelong partners.



Building for the Long Haul

As ADM/API looks to the future, one thing is clear—the company is not interested in becoming the biggest shop around but the most trusted.

That means continuing to invest in people, processes, and relationships. It means staying grounded in the principles that got ADM/API here—transparency, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to quality. The company is in it for the long haul, and is focused on building something that lasts, not chasing short-term wins.

And in a world that’s increasingly focused on speed, scale, and short-term gains, ADM/API’s quiet, consistent excellence stands out even more. Because sometimes, the best way to shape the future is by holding fast to the values that never go out of style. 

ISSN 2689-8047

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OUTLOOK



Manufacturing Outlook

ISSN 2689-8047

Published from
600 S ANDREWS AVE STE 405,
FT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301

www.themanufacturingoutlook.com