



Dr. Die Cast



Securing the Services of a Consultant? Who Needs Them?

What or who is a consultant? If I Google for the search term “Consultant” Google reports there are 425,000,000 responses. Narrowing the search to “Die Casting Consultant” narrows the response down to a mere 619,000 including the NADCA site www.diecasting.org! Everyone has used the advice of a consultant. A die lube salesman or hydraulics supplier who provides useful advice that solves a problem is acting as consultant. In short, a consultant is often someone who provides expert advice on a particular subject. You consult your accountant, mechanic, attorney, physician, etc. Consultants provide training in focused areas such as machine controls, electronics, hydraulics, mechanical, tooling design, flow and thermal design, process control, and so on. Nearly everyone is familiar with “Quality Consultants” such as Dr.s W. Edwards Deming, Joseph Juran, Genichi Taguchi, Dorian Shainin, Philip Crosby and others. We should be thankful for their contributions to the evolution of

quality in manufacturing as much of the current level of quality we have come to take for granted has been due to their contributions and influence. Nearly all of their contributions were done in a consulting capacity.

Researchers such as the late Dr. Jack Wallace of Case Western Reserve and his friend Dr. Walter Smith of DCD Technologies contributed greatly to the development, understanding and acceptance of Premium Quality H-13 and the appropriate heat treatment processes.

Smelting specialists such as the late Bob Wright and Bill Peters trained many successful melt operators.

How can a consultant help your business? Perhaps you're a small company who has a very small (translate “Lean”) engineering staff. You can retain the services of a skilled engineer to design or manage a short to medium term project. Need help ramping up on a large group of projects? There are consultants who design gating, venting and thermal systems. Some create and/or evaluate flow and

solidification simulations while others serve as project managers/engineers. Consultants can act as an extension of your company's administration, quality, engineering, tooling and manufacturing departments while you recruit for a full time candidate or temporarily during peak business cycles. Consultants are typically self employed and self insured although some are technically employed by consulting groups that act as intermediaries and provide health and vacation benefits to the consultant. One caution when working with consulting groups is that you may not find the specialized expertise you are seeking. It is important to verify the experience and qualifications necessary for your particular industry and project(s).

In summary, just about everyone could benefit from the assistance of a qualified consultant.



Who's Dr. Die Cast?

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