

INNOVATIVE IMPROVEMENTS VIA STEM INTERNSHIP

ABOUT SINTERGY, INC. Sintergy, Inc. is a world-class manufacturer of custom engineered powder metal components. Located in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, in the town of Reynoldsville, Sintergy has over 50,000 square feet of manufacturing and office space and around 20 employees. The company supplies components to a variety of manufacturing industries, including automotive, agricultural equipment, lawn and garden, consumer products, and appliances.

THE CHALLENGE. Sintergy was using a manual process to manage statistical process control, which was cumbersome, prone to operator error, and unable to provide timely information. Company leaders wanted an automated system for tracking statistical process control. They contacted the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NEPIRC), part of the MEP National Network™, for assistance in implementing an automated system to alert operators, in a timely fashion, about out-of-process control capabilities.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. NWIRC utilized its STEM Internship Program to select an engineering student to work on the project for Sintergy. The goal of the project was to reduce process variation and improve the part re-work rate from about 3 percent annually to less than 0.5 percent annually. The requested Quality Engineer Intern focused on identifying best practices, equipment, and available technologies to measure—with minimal operator input—process control variables. The student was also responsible for championing the procurement of the best-fit solution and managing its installation.

By investing in new equipment and procedures for measuring, recording, and analyzing product and process data, Sintergy improved quality and process control, reduced costs, and increased sales. The company added jobs, and the engineering intern trained Sintergy employees on the new procedures as part of the STEM Internship Program.

"Our intern Matt really stepped up to become a valuable Sintergy team member. With his assistance on SPC and data collection, we are leaps and bounds ahead of where we were just a year ago."

-Rick Young, CEO

RESULTS



Increased sales by **\$200,000**



Added **3** jobs



Gained **\$30,000** in cost savings



Invested **\$100,000** in new equipment, procedures

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