

## WKW ERBSLOEH NORTH AMERICA (WENA) INCREASES FUTURE SALES AND JOB GROWTH AS A RESULT OF ISO 14001:2015 EMS CERTIFICATION

### ABOUT WKW ERBSLOEH NORTH AMERICA LLC. [WKW Erbsloeh](#)

[North America, LLC](#) (WENA) is the North American headquarters for WKW Automotive from Germany. Established in Pell City, Alabama, in 2008, WENA is one of the largest employers in St. Clair County, employing close to 400 people producing aluminum trim and other components, such as roof railing systems, for the automotive industry. Recognized by the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association as the 2018 Supplier of the Year in the Large Manufacturer category (defined as companies with 200+ employees), WENA's customers include Mercedes, BMW, GM, and Volkswagen.

**THE CHALLENGE.** The company needed to become ISO 14001: 2015 Environmental Management System (EMS) certified by fall 2017 to support continuous improvement and growth. Leadership began identifying some key steps required to support efforts to successfully achieve EMS certification and, in January 2017, participated in an Alabama Technology Network (ATN) Internal Auditing workshop for ISO 14001: 2015. In follow-up, WENA engaged ATN to develop processes, train employees, implement procedures, and internally audit the ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System to prepare for successful EMS registration.

**MEP CENTER'S ROLE.** In May 2017, ATN EHS engineers designed and completed a project for EMS implementation and certification. The project included a gap assessment; an executive overview training; and the development and execution of processes, procedures, and tools necessary to change the company culture and comply with the ISO 9001: 2015 EMS standard. In addition, another team of ATN staff worked separately to conduct an internal audit, verifying that the ISO 14001: 2015 EMS system was ready for the registrar's audit. WENA received ISO 14001:2015 EMS certification successfully.

*"In today's competitive business environments, it is critical to partner with the right organizations to ensure your long-term success and ATN has proven time and time again to be one of those organizations."*

-Todd Green, President-WKW Erbsloeh NA

## RESULTS



Increasing future sales via new customers valued at \$100M+



Retained current jobs and created **6** new high skilled jobs



**\$1.4 million+** investment in workforce practices

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