

## **Kennedy Strengthens Products and Jobs**

Recently Kennedy Mfg. has seen its share of changes. The company was purchased by KMC Holdings last May, which introduced new and energetic leadership to the company. George Garafalis, Chief Financial Officer of Kennedy, has invigorated the company with new ideas and leadership.

Kennedy has renovated their facility on Industrial Drive, adding new offices and equipment that expanded the company's ability to adapt to changing world markets. "These renovations have almost doubled our U.S. manufacturing capacity so that we can support both the existing and emerging needs of our customers." Since new management has moved in, Kennedy has added four engineers to help strengthen their product, and currently have three engineers in China.

To continue competing globally Kennedy, and its sister company Homek, have been working diligently to meet the needs of their customers world wide. "We have assembly and warehousing operations in both Pennsylvania and China," said Garafalis.

New equipment and procedures have also allowed Kennedy to reach new markets that never seemed possible. Smaller items, and also retail items, are now being produced to meet different markets. "We are now able to adapt to the customer's needs, something that used to not be possible for Kennedy." said Garafalis.

Kennedy also manufactures Blue Bell Bio-Medical products in their Van Wert facility. Blue Bell has been part of the Kennedy name since it was acquired in 1998. This relationship combines quality products with medical technology needs. Each product is hand crafted to fit the customer's expectations, and is expected to be a large part of Kennedy's future in the years to come.

Although many changes have happened to improve the quality of their product and facilities, new management has also focused improving the quality of jobs for their employees. According to Mr. Garafalis, “You can’t just throw people at problems.” Multiple hours have been spent training and educating the current workforce increasing the quality of work and also company morale.

