

## AIAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



*Barron Industries | Oxford, Michigan*

*Bruce Barron, President & CEO*

[www.barron-industries.com](http://www.barron-industries.com)



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Barron Industries is a 3rd generation family business which began as a Detroit foundry in 1923 when founder Joseph H. Barron delivered parts personally to Henry Ford. In 1983, the Barron family acquired a 13- thousand square foot investment casting plant in Oxford and expanded the company by acquiring a 65-thousand square foot manufacturing facility in 1990 and a third 10-thousand square foot plant in 2019.

Today, Barron Industries is a global full-service manufacturer of precision cast parts, machined components, and complete assemblies. Barron offers complete turnkey product manufacturing of components for Aerospace, Defense, Automotive, Oil and Gas, Nuclear, Medical, and other commercial industries. We are AS9100D and NADCAP Accredited for digital radiography, penetrant testing and welding.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

75

All 75 employees are engaged in aerospace activity

### **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF YOUR BEING LOCATED IN MICHIGAN?**

"Supply Chain is key because just about any manufacturing process you need is located within an hour of our facilities in Oxford. We've established many long-term relationships with neighboring partners who provide heat treating and coating, CNC machining and inspection services."

### **WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR COMPANY'S GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT**

"Barron's greatest success is operating a family owned metal casting business for almost a hundred years. What began as a Detroit foundry producing 60 ton sand castings has evolved into a global precision casting company with the most advanced vertically integrated manufacturing processes. We're now a turnkey manufacturer of both ferrous and non-ferrous castings, precision machined components, and completely assembled mechanical sub-systems. Our capabilities are comprehensive, from design for manufacturing to production, as well as shipping and delivery anywhere in the world. And, because we compete on a global basis, we maintain strategic alliances with manufacturing companies around the world."

### **WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AND VISION FOR YOUR COMPANY OVER THE NEXT 5 AND 10 YEARS?**

"We aim to expand into the fast-growing space and satellite communications market by producing high strength thin-wall machined and coated aluminum castings for satellites including laser optics systems. We also manufacture nickel-based alloy components involved in the critical aspects of propulsion systems. In addition, Barron plans to be part of the airline industry comeback within the next five years and its steady growth for the next 10-20 years with the transition into the new commercial hypersonic airliners."

### **WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DO YOU SEE THAT EXIST IN MICHIGAN FOR THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY?**

"The horizontal and vertical launch facilities planned for Oscoda and Marquette will provide many business opportunities in near earth outer space."

### **AS AN AIAM MEMBER, WHAT DO YOU SEE AS SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING MICHIGAN AND THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY?**

"One of the biggest challenges we face is the ability to attract and maintain a skilled manufacturing workforce. Nearly 30 percent of our team members have been at Barron for more than ten years and are now approaching retirement age. In order to replace them, Barron aims to advance our current employees by providing them with the skills necessary for higher-level supervisory and technical roles. To accommodate our increased production, current and new employees will also need to acquire new skills and qualifications to comply with our new high-quality standards. To remain competitive in our current labor market, Barron has put in place a new benefits package offering completely free health insurance to all employees, a company matched 401K plan, company-paid life insurance and more. We are also implementing apprenticeship programs for current and new employees."

### **HOW DOES THE AEROSPACE ASPECT OF YOUR BUSINESS BENEFIT FROM THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY IN MICHIGAN?**

"Michigan's quality oriented automotive industry provides a well-established supply base for needed outside manufacturing services."

