

AIAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



Robert Dines
CEO, United Technical
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United Technical started in the garage of CEO and founder Robert Dines after he decided to become an outside resource for companies in need of welding consulting and testing. Having spent years in manufacturing, he knew that there was a desperate need for his welding expertise and specialized testing that companies were unable to handle in-house.

Through his existing network of contacts and word-of-mouth, United Technical grew, adding more testing capabilities and breadth of knowledge in the areas of metallurgical testing, failure analysis and welding engineering.

The company moved from the garage to a facility in South Lyon before moving again to the current 25,000 sq. ft. facility in Whitmore Lake. Recently, the addition of United Technical Solutions, Jack & Sons Welding and Fabricating, along with the acquisition of Integrity Inspections has created a group of companies uniquely positioned to handle the welding, testing and fabrication needs of clients across a wide variety of industries.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN YOUR AEROSPACE ACTIVITY?

"Functionally, every employee we have. Every service we offer is vital to the aerospace industry."

UNITED TECHNICAL PRESENCE IN MICHIGAN AND OTHER STATES/COUNTRIES

"Michigan is our home. United Technical was founded in Whitmore Lake before moving to a shop in South Lyon, finally expanding four-fold with a move back to Whitmore Lake in the current facility. We serve clients nationwide and internationally and are always evaluating potential expansion where it makes sense to grow where our expertise is needed."



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

"Having pushed the automotive industry forward for decades, this region is clearly capable of intense innovation and creative thinking that is exactly what's needed in the aerospace industry right now. Creating new materials, developing new technologies and transforming how we think about aerospace vehicles require complex solutions that bring new challenges in forming, joining and fabricating. United Technical is ready to help aerospace companies overcome these hurdles."

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

"Similar to the automotive industry's push into EVs and "lightweighting," the new materials required to realize some of the innovations coming down the road in aerospace are going to present new and vital forming and joining challenges. New materials often require rethinking long-held 'norms' in production processes that can be incredibly difficult to overcome. It's absolutely vital that these be handled correctly to ensure that the excellent reliability and safety record of the industry remains intact."

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

"In many ways, from our point of view, the two are exceptionally similar in the challenges they're facing and the expertise required to overcome them. Everything we've learned serving the automotive industry can be brought to bear to solve the similar issues that our aerospace clients are battling. Having the most innovative companies in both industries here in Michigan is a boon to both and we are stronger for having worked extensively with each."

WHAT HAS BEEN, IN YOUR OPINION, YOUR COMPANY'S GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT?

"The greatest accomplishment for us is embodied in the 'United' of our company name. From the start, this company has been about building a family. A family of related services that provide our client's much needed expertise that they can't reasonably manage in-house. A family of employees who support each other and are cross-trained to be able to understand other parts of the business to make the company stronger and better able to serve our clients. A family of employees who work together to ensure each other are" supported and able to deliver great results for our clients."

