

Schwank Case Study:

Tier one automotive company cuts fuel costs and carbon footprint by 65%



"Our creative approach guarantees up to 40% energy savings for any application. It is therefore crucial for us, to partner with a company like Schwank that can meet and exceed these requirements."

Daryn Bozek,
President,
Thermo Source LLC.



Equipment

supraSchwank
TruTemp infrared thermostat

Facility

896,000 square-foot manufacturing plant

Results

- Over \$150,000 in annual energy costs within first year
- 65% energy and carbon footprint reduction



The Facility

Tower Automotive is one of the largest independent global suppliers of automotive metal structural components and assemblies. Customers include Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Chrysler, Honda, Toyota, Volkswagen, and Volvo. Providing a broad range of metal structures from stampings to complex body and frame assemblies,

Tower Automotive of Elkton, Michigan, a 985,873 square-foot facility, is a "tier one" automotive supplier, and one of the largest contract stamping companies in the United States.

The automotive supplier base is broken into "tiers" for definition of supplier status along the supply chain. Tier one suppliers are those that supply the original equipment manufacturers [OEMs], or major automotive assembly firms

The Issue

Tower Automotive had numerous problems with their existing heating system. The system was expensive to maintain, consumed excessive fuel, and triggered complaints from the unionized workforce due to uncomfortable temperatures

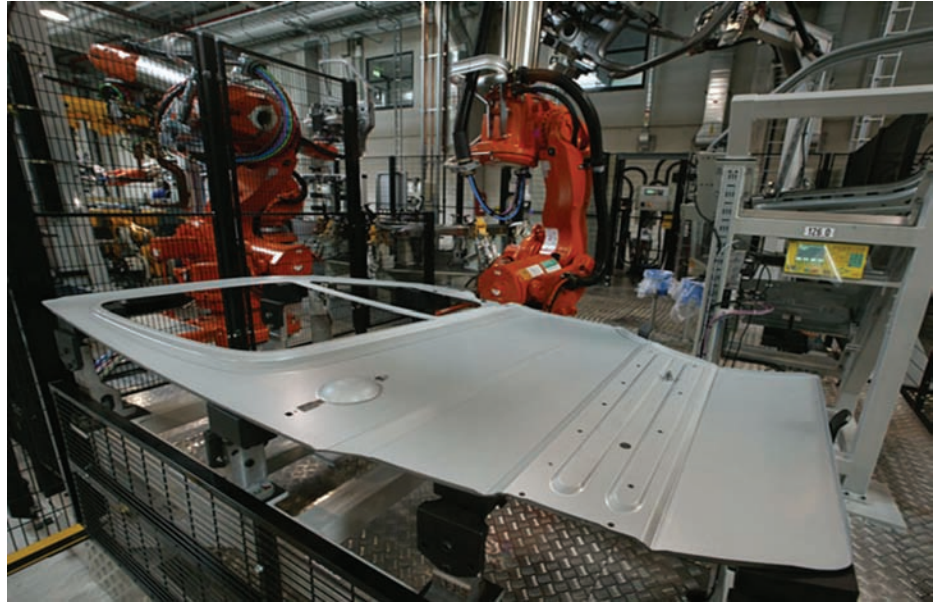
Schwank surveyed the Tower Automotive facility in Elkton, Michigan with Thermo Source, an independent energy management contractor that performs commercial grade energy audits and identifies excessive utility costs. Based on information gathered, Schwank designed a heating system that achieved the right balance in satisfying employee comfort and maximizing energy savings. Schwank supplied supraSchwank, the most efficient gas-fired infrared heating system for maximum radiant output with a high return on investment and low life-cycle cost.

Schwank
INNOVATIVE HEATING SOLUTIONS



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Implementation

A total of 210 supraSchwank luminous heaters were installed throughout the 896,000 square foot facility. Schwank unique TruTemp infrared thermostats with automatic setback and recovery capability, were installed to ensure employee comfort and efficient operation in 28 heating zones.

Tower Automotive realized that energy efficiency is not just about saving fuel or being green. Instead, they realized early on, that investment in energy conservation is smart business that yielded a greater return on investment than expected. Energy efficiency implementation assisted Tower Automotive to gain the competitive edge.

Results

After the installation of the supraSchwank heating system, improved comfort assured employee performance production. The numbers showed that annual fuel cost was reduced from \$233,000 to only \$82,000.

In addition, the new infrared heating system reduced CO₂ emissions from an estimated 2,500 tons/year to 875 tons/year, a 65% reduction which helped the company achieve U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [EPA] compliant status in the areas of waste management and CO₂ emissions, long before they became mandatory in 2010.

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