

CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

Tooling association changes name as it prepares to go national

By Sheena Harrison

11:47 am, January 3, 2007

The **Michigan Tooling Association** has changed its name to **The Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association** in hopes of drawing membership outside the state and pushing for trade policies that benefit domestic companies.

The Farmington Hills-based association voted to change its name on Dec. 21 and announced the change this week. President and CEO Rob Dumont said the association is going national because it wants to gain numbers and push for trade policies that will help domestic manufacturers compete against foreign companies, such as pressuring China to stop pegging its currency, known as the yuan, against the U.S. dollar.

The association feels national trade groups such as the **National Association of Manufacturers**, which is led by former Gov. John Engler, have not done enough to support small and mid-sized domestic manufacturers, Dumont said.

"If you look at NAM's history, you'll see they've been extremely supportive of international trade agreements," he said. "International trade is to be favored by everyone, but those agreements need something of value for American manufacturers."

The association has 600 members in Michigan. Dumont said the association has received membership inquiries from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Colorado and Kentucky since announcing its name change this week.