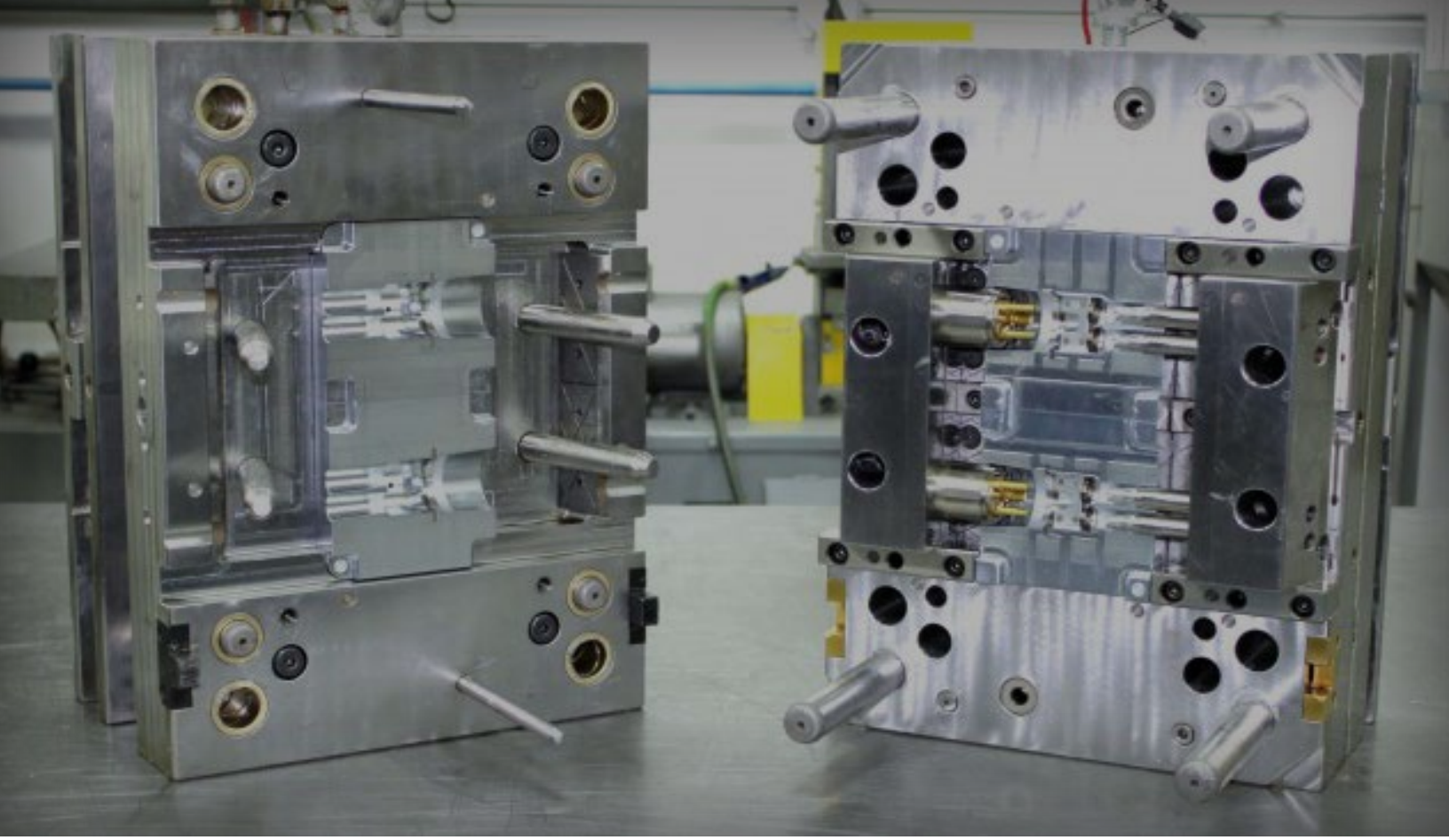


Key Steps in a Successful Tool Transfer

NICOLET PLASTICS

FAST, FLUID, AND FLEXIBLE™

Key Steps In a Successful Tool Transfer

With the transfer of plastic injection molds, manufacturers can embrace the opportunity to improve the quality, pricing, service and lead time that a plastic injection molder may provide. However, it is important for a manufacturer to be aware of the possible technical issues and challenges that can emerge during the process.

While unforeseen circumstances can occur, discoveries made in the transfer process will aid in achieving a high degree of project success.

Diligence in the evaluation phase will ensure a positive outcome with proper planning, communication and investment to achieve the ultimate goal of the project.

Here are the key steps in facilitating a successful tool transfer:

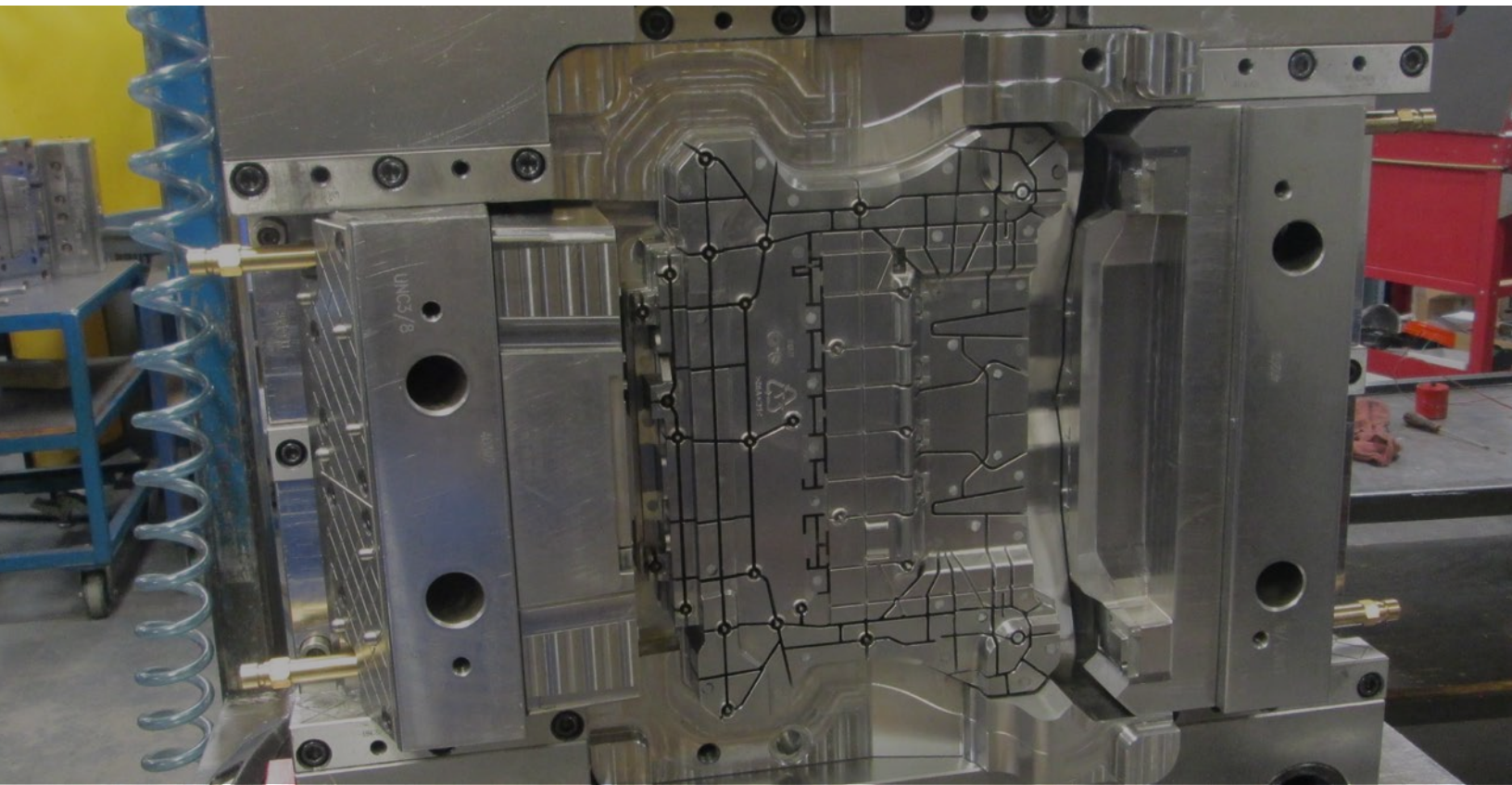
Understanding Program Management Team Roles

Your new injection molder holds the very important responsibility of establishing your tool transfer team. The team should include representatives from all necessary departments including engineering through to production.

Account Manager:	Responsible for coordinating, integrating and facilitating efficient communication among the group.
Project Manager:	The PM is a team leader who coordinates a team of project engineers based on the size, scope, and duration of the validation phase of the project.
Tooling Engineer:	Accountable for evaluating molds and creating necessary documentation for improvement recommendations to ensure qualified product is molded according to projections.
Quality Engineer:	Responsible for evaluating parts, part prints, gauges and fixtures, and records, as well as creating instruction and inspection reports, etc.
Process Engineer:	All transferred molds must be qualified in the presses that will be used for future runs. The PE and his or her team make certain that each mold has a robust process window in the new environment.

Establishing Clearly Defined Communication Channels

- ☐ It is essential that there is no missing, incomplete, or incorrect process information in the documentation.
- ☐ Scheduling the transfer is a joint effort, and both parties are responsible for its success. All parts, molds, and associated production equipment will receive a scheduled date to transfer.
- ☐ The originating production facility will be responsible for building safety stock (enough stock to get a manufacturer through the date of the first run with the new injection molder) per the production requirements of the transfer schedule. It essential to build enough safety stock to allow for the tools and equipment to be transferred and validated at the destination facility.
- ☐ Any tooling refurbishments will need to be quoted and submitted for approval.
- ☐ Validate – with the goal being to gain approval on each part to be produced. Allow for flexibility in this process, as individual companies may require product-specific production controls.



Foundational Transfer Tool Checklist

(This list may be customized depending on the customer's unique needs.)

Disclosure of Existing Documentation:

- ☐ Production Part Print
- ☐ Gage / Fixture Print
- ☐ BOM and Routing Sheet
- ☐ Master Sample
- ☐ Tool Drawings and Tool Maintenance Records
- ☐ Molding and Change-Over Instructions
- ☐ NCMR History (Reject History)
- ☐ Last 12 Months Process Capability
- ☐ Last Gage R&R For Any Inspection Gauges or Fixtures
- ☐ Control Plan
- ☐ Part Traceability – How Will Your Company Identify Nicolet Plastics Product From Previous Molder?
- ☐ Complete / Accurate RFQ Questionnaire Information
- ☐ Customer Requested Timeline

How can Nicolet Plastics help with your next tool transfer? Contact our account management and engineering experts today.