

a touch of Glass

Brought to you by your glass experts at **IRD** glass

November 2015

Subscriber,

Welcome back! Have you considered Kanbans for your supply needs? Read our story below. It may just be a great fit for you. Also, IRD welcomes Mick Spillane, our new Quality Engineer. Check out his story on the right.



Veterans honored during IRD Glass's company-wide appreciation meeting on November 11th - Veterans Day 2015. Pictured left to right above: Robert Maus, Mike Stoffer, Jeanne Holfield, David Peterson and Denny Rutledge. Not pictured: Dirk Kvale, Keith Anderson, Barb Hoepfer and Jeremy Miller.

Honoring our Veterans

In honor of Veterans Day, IRD extends a whole-hearted



**Mick Spillane,
IRD's New
Quality
Assurance
Engineer**



IRD is pleased to announce the hiring of Mick Spillane, IRD's new

thank you and appreciation to all veterans – past and present for their service. We are humbled by their selfless dedication and service to our country.

Being a veteran owned company IRD holds veterans very close to our hearts. Denny Rutledge, one of IRD's co-founders and a Navy veteran himself, acknowledged our veteran employees in a special company-wide meeting. IRD Glass and IRD Ceramics combined employ nine veterans whose service comes from all branches of service. We recognized them and honor them for their service.



Kanbans at IRD Glass -- Just another way IRD works with customers to keep them supplied with a steady flow of production parts.

Want your parts delivered tomorrow?

How would you like to be able to make a phone call, or send an email, and know that your order will be shipped the same day? Are you aware that IRD Glass and IRD Ceramics offer inventory management options for our customers? Customer Managed Inventory (Kanban), Vendor Managed Inventory and Just In Time inventory are all variations that will ensure you'll always have the parts you need, when you need them. With a longer term blanket order, we manufacture your parts to your

Quality Assurance Engineer. Our Quality Management System is in his capable hands to ensure that IRD continues to deliver top-quality, in-spec parts to our customers, now and well into the future. Mick's responsibilities will also include first article inspections, internal quality and process checks, troubleshooting and the maintaining of ISO standards at IRD.

Mick brings experience from over 5 years at Honeywell Aerospace and Segetis to IRD Glass. Those roles included production engineer, quality standards and process troubleshooting. Mick holds a BS in Physics from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis in addition to a great sense of humor and a welcoming uplifting spirit. And he loves plaid.

Mick and his wife Heather, moved from the Minneapolis area to the prairie of Central Minnesota in search of small town, family-friendly experience. They have two boys, ages 3 and 5 that are Mick's main hobby.

Contact Mick at 320-693-7217 or mick.spillane@irdglass.com with any

specifications and keep an agreed upon supply of finished goods, WIP, and material on hand. When you request a shipment or schedule a release, we will ship the release within 1 working day of notice. You have your parts on-time when needed even in unexpected demand situations, without the delays and hassles dealing with your supply chain. Each Kanban release triggers us to start the process and replenish the finished goods inventory within an agreed upon time frame. With a continuous flow of parts in the IRD pipeline and raw materials replenished in a Kanban based pipeline from our vendors, a steady supply of parts will always be available for you. This results in less hassle and struggle with changing demand and due dates in your supply chain, and lower inventory cost at your location since you won't need a large safety stock. Give Michelle deCastro a call at 914-400-6492 or send us an email at ird@irdglass.com. We'd be happy to discuss options to reduce your hassles and simplify your supply chain.

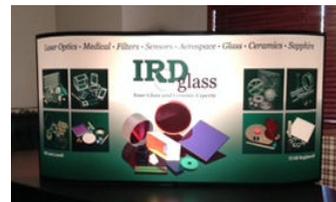
At IRD your parts are manufactured in production cells with dedicated & cross-trained employees, dedicated equipment, and dedicated floor space for specific customers or product lines. Each cell is responsible for the entire process a part will experience, from ordering raw material to final inspection and shipping. This cell-based system works best when its plan is built around a Kanban supply system. Each cell has first-hand knowledge of your parts and with cross-trained employees, they're able to ramp up as needed to increase production where and when needed. The Kanban replenishment system helps to level load the production plan, enabling us to be efficient in our response to your changing requirements, resulting in lower costs and stable pricing. This affords a steady supply of products for you and a predictable workflow for us. A win-win all the way around. Call or email today to discuss options that may be a fit for your needs! Call 320-693-7217 or send us an email at ird@irdglass.com



News & Updates

questions or quality concerns.

Welcome aboard, Mick!



UPCOMING TRADE SHOWS

IRD Glass will be showing at these events in 2016. Be sure to stop by our new booth to say hello!

**Photonics West
Michelle deCastro,
Todd Anderson and
Dirk Kvale Showing
Booth 4025**

February 16th - 18th, 2016
San Francisco, CA

**Ceramics Expo
Booth 815
John Rutledge and
Todd**

Anderson Showing
April 26th - 28th, 2016
Cleveland, OH

**Sensors
Booth 648
Ron Antos and Todd
Anderson Showing**
June 22nd - 23rd, 2016
Long Beach, CA

• September 2015

New lap and polish capabilities announced at IRD Ceramics. This technology is producing very flat, parallel, and smooth plano optics with diameters of 102mm and smaller with 0.5 to 5.0 mm thickness. Typical flatnesses of .25-.50 wave have also been achieved, with the potential to achieve .01 wave and <5 nm RMS in certain cases. Contact John Rutledge at jdr@irdceramics.com or 320-759-2216.

• August 2015

IRD Glass is growing and staffing up to meet increased demand. We've added management and engineering personnel and 13 new production floor support people - all to assist with making sure our customers receive the quality and service they deserve. You'll notice the changes and we welcome your feedback! Let us know how we're doing and what we can do for you and your company.

• Early Spring 2015

It's been a busy season for trade shows! IRD exhibited at Photonics West in February. April we were at Am Con, Design of Medical Devices, Aerodef and Ceramics Expo. May found us in San Jose at CLEO. There's still time to catch us though. Look for our upcoming shows in the far right column. Stop by and see us. There's a lot going on at IRD to talk about!

• February 2015

In February IRD celebrates the addition of Gerard Crosby, a key addition to our new product cell.

• October 2014

Installation of our newest Speedfam 16B Double-sided Lapper

• August 2014

WELCOME to Michelle deCastro, IRD Glass' new National Sales Manager! Yay! Please contact Michelle with your glass needs michelle.decastro@irdglass.com



Laughing My Glass Off!

A priest, an ophthalmologist, and an engineer were golfing one morning behind a particularly slow group of golfers.

The engineer fumed, "What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!"

The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!"

The priest said, "Here comes the greens keeper. Let's have a word with him." He said, "Hello, George. What's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?"

The greens keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we let them play for free anytime."

The group fell silent for a moment. Then the priest said, "That's so sad. I think





**WE'RE HERE
WHEN YOU NEED HELP
MOST!**

I'll say a special prayer for them."

The ophthalmologist added, "Good idea. And maybe I could examine them to see if there's anything I can do for them."

They were silent for a moment. Then the engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"

Credit: Engineering-Humor.com

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