

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**RIDGID® TO HOST MANUFACTURING DAY EVENT  
ON OCTOBER 23, 2018 FOR OCHS STUDENTS**

*Program Designed to Expand Knowledge of Manufacturing, Improve Public  
Perception of Manufacturing Career Opportunities*

Orange, Virginia – In celebration of Manufacturing Day, RIDGID® will open its doors on October 23, 2018 to more than 100 students from Orange County High School, as part of an effort to correct the misperceptions about today’s manufacturing environment and draw attention to the outstanding opportunities that a career in manufacturing can provide. Planned presentations include those on the company history, how RIDGID incorporates technology into their operations, the manufacturing process, safety, and more.

Manufacturing Day is an annual national event executed at the local level supported by thousands of manufacturers as they host students, teachers, parents, job seekers, and other local community members at open houses, plant tours, and presentations designed to showcase modern manufacturing technology and careers.

“There is an increasing demand for highly skilled professionals in the manufacturing sector who can design, program, and operate technology,” said Phil Geer, Director of Economic Development. “The average age of a manufacturing employee is 56, and between now and 2020 there will be an unprecedented shortage of skilled workers who will need to be replaced.”

“RIDGID has a long history of being a strong supporter of the trades, whether that’s been equipping emerging professionals at national apprentice competitions with tools to get started, or partnering with local schools like Orange County High School to introduce students to career opportunities in manufacturing,” said Mike Rutkowski, RIDGID Plant Manager. “Manufacturing and the trades play a vital role in our country and RIDGID is excited to be a part of sharing with our students some of the careers available to them in the field.”

**About RIDGID®**

RIDGID is a global manufacturer of more than 300 dependable and innovative tools, trusted by the professional trades in over 140 countries. RIDGID products are designed to help professionals in the demanding commercial, industrial and energy markets install and maintain the world’s infrastructure with greater certainty and efficiency. Headquartered in Elyria, Ohio, RIDGID is a business unit of Emerson™, a global innovator in technology and engineering.

More information on Manufacturing Day is available at [www.mfgday.com](http://www.mfgday.com).



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