



2024 Annual Report

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approved by Sarah Loveland, President.*

May 22, 2025

Overview of 2024

In 2024, TechForm celebrated our 30th anniversary. Founded in 1994 by Teresa Frye and the late Dr. Helmut Frye, TechForm initially served the medical industry's need for high-temperature platinum casting. The growing demand for platinum castings in the 1990s led TechForm to expand into the aerospace industry. TechForm's unique, high-refractory shell casting system could be tailored to the specific needs of casting platinum jewelry, and TechForm switched gears to service the jewelry industry. Teresa's love of metallurgy and research led to groundbreaking research into the challenges of high-temperature platinum casting.

With the foundation of continual research and improvement, TechForm continues to dive deep into platinum casting. Teresa's daughter, Sarah, took the position of President at the end of 2023 and continues to lead a team driven to develop the casting process further and educate the industry on best practices. TechForm's management is comprised of dedicated long-term employees, with Kevin Mueller, Vice President of Operations, celebrating 28 years at TechForm and Director of Manufacturing Joel Meltzer celebrating 19 years. Supporting management is a team of 12 employees.

As part of our commitment to best practices, TechForm was recertified ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015. TechForm achieved Responsible Jewelry Council membership and prepared for certification in 2025. This annual report is part of that process and our commitment to transparency, continuous improvement of the health and safety of our employees, and commitment to quality for our customers. 2024 is the first year we have delivered such a report, which has been made available on our website.

QUALITY POLICY

TechForm's Quality Policy is to deliver products and services of such excellence that TechForm becomes the first choice of customers. This can only be accomplished in an environment of understanding and meeting our customers' requirements while continually improving our process and technology. Such efforts shall be implemented in a manner that respects both the planet and people.

Natural Resources

As part of our ISO 14001:2015 certification work, we set the following targets:

- Conservation of natural resources by reducing, reusing, and recycling materials.
- Purchasing products made from recycled materials.
- Identification of opportunities and implementation of equipment and processes to eliminate or mitigate pollution.
- Integration of environmental values into planning, decision-making, and business practices.
- Effective communication of this policy to all staff.
- Routine reviews of our performance on these targets.

Our facility was fully audited in early February to identify our objectives and targets and the actions needed to meet our goals.

We evaluated our water consumption and identified the most considerable water-consuming process as the cooling water for the casting machines. This water is not contaminated during casting, only warmed. We could significantly reduce the amount of freshwater used by purchasing

and installing a recycling and chilling system for the Linn casting machine. Unfortunately, this system is over \$6000 and not within reach this year. We will continue to monitor water usage and cooling technology, and budget resources for opportunities.

We have looked at ways to reduce our energy consumption, and we have achieved our goal of reducing our energy consumption and calculated that we saved an average of 7% per month.

We implemented a new system to track and record equipment maintenance. This ensures that filters are regularly changed at the correct intervals and that equipment is in top working condition. Preventive maintenance is essential to keeping the machinery working efficiently and maintaining a healthy work environment for our staff.

Metrics are key to hitting and maintaining targets. We now have access to 2024 water usage by month, which enables us to evaluate our past usage and monitor usage going forward. Administration now receives monthly water usage reports from the landlord and can access energy consumption to report to the management team. We have an updated list of objectives for 2025 and feel confident about what we can achieve.

Employee Safety

We have updated our safety manual and training schedule. Our team's safety is the most important thing we can do for our employees. We added training videos and quarterly refreshers to ensure proper training and retention.

In 2023, we purchased a ProJet 3D printer. The patterns use isopropyl alcohol to dewax. This new print material has dramatically increased our use of isopropyl alcohol. We researched the best way to dispose of the waste and worked with ACT Environmental to find the best way to store the chemical until we were ready for them to pick it up. They are our go-to when we have questions about hazardous waste disposal.

Precious Metal Suppliers Due Diligence

Under our supplier qualification criteria, TechForm utilizes standards when evaluating a metal supplier to mitigate risks and identify potential red flags, ensuring we work with companies that share our values. These standards include:

- Suppliers registered to a recognized standard,
 - Current SCS Global Services Responsible Source Refiner Certification,
 - Current SCS Global Services Harmony Recycled Precious Metal Certification,
 - Responsible Jewelry Council Membership Certification,
 - London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) certification
 - LBMA Responsible Sourcing Program Certification,
 - Listed on the LBMA and/or LPPM Good Delivery List.
- An AML Program
- Products are certified under a recognized private-sector or government program.
- Site assessment by a member of TechForm or by an independent 3rd party assessor.
- Examination of supplier verification data, such as laboratory or test reports, certificates of conformance, and process control charts.
- Product qualifications, such as an evaluation of sample products.
- Historical performance with an ongoing monitoring or sampling program.

Umicore Precious Metals USA Inc. supplies TechForm with platinum ruthenium and fine gold casting grain meeting all the above criteria. They are RJC, ISO 9001:2015, and ISO 14001:2015 certified, as well as the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains and London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) certification. They provide metal lot certifications with every platinum order and quarterly for all fine gold orders. In 2024, 86% of our platinum ruthenium and 100% of our gold alloys were certified recycled from internal scrap or purchased recycled from suppliers, including Umicore Ag and Heesung PM Tech.

Johnson Matthey (JM) is a backup source for our Platinum Ruthenium alloy and our source for the Palladium Ruthenium alloy. Although it does not have the jewelry industry certifications listed in the Responsible Sourcing Policy, JM has a strong Platinum Supply Chain Policy and is committed to complying with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains, as well as a comprehensive Human Rights Policy <https://matthey.com/en/sustainability/policies-and-disclosures>

Hoover and Strong (H&S) publicizes its company as “the world's greenest refiner” and uses environmentally friendly refining techniques that exceed federal, state, and local environmental regulations. Their full Code of Conduct, Environmental Policy, and related certifications can be viewed on their website. Currently, Hoover and Strong provide TechForm’s Platinum Ruthenium TruPt™ Hard Cast alloy.

<https://www.hooverandstrong.com/sub-landing/Responsibility-Statements-And-Policies>

H&S certifications and memberships include SCS Global Services Responsible Source Refiner Certification and SCS Global Services Harmony Recycled Precious Metal Certification

All of Stuller's gold, silver, platinum, and palladium products have been certified by SCS Global Services as consisting of 100% recycled content. The company's responsible sourcing policy states that Stuller will only source from companies that follow the guidelines and standards outlined in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains and the Responsible Jewelry Council's Chain of Custody Standard for Precious Metals. They also hold Responsible Jewelry Council Membership Certification and SCS Global Services Responsible Source Standard for Precious Metals.

AAA Precious Metal is a local source of fine gold casting grain. It is a refiner that purchases gold from the public. While all the refined fine gold casting grain they sell is internally produced and sourced from 100% recycled materials, no chain of custody exists. AAA is a backup source of fine gold casting grain only if there is a problem with the metal supply from Umicore. They comply with the US Patriot Act and have an AML program that mitigates some of the risks associated with purchasing from them.

Human Rights Due Diligence

Our standards do not consider human rights or the 10 UN principles when working with suppliers, but we favor RJC-certified suppliers who have committed to human rights. As we start 2025, we

are finalizing our Corporate Social Responsibility Program, outlining a more substantial commitment to these concerns. When finalized, our CSR will be available on our website.

Grievance Mechanism

TechForm strives to be responsive to our employees' concerns. We understand that problems, misunderstandings, and frustrations may occasionally arise. Therefore, we encourage open communication. Employees' concerns should be promptly reported to management so that a solution may be devised. To facilitate this, an employee may discuss the problem with any management team member they are comfortable with or use our online anonymous form if needed. No TechForm employee will be subject to retaliation for filing a complaint.

For customer concerns, management maintains a customer feedback log that is discussed during monthly management review meetings. Whether it was a phone call or an email, TechForm takes customer feedback seriously. These comments concern product quality, but management addresses and discusses any concerns that arise.

No grievances have been raised regarding human rights risks or our supply chain due diligence.

Conclusion

TechForm is committed to transparency. We report our progress on our website, in newsletters, and on social media posts. Customers can call at any time to speak with management and ask questions or raise concerns.

In 2025, we will implement several policy changes as we commit to the Responsible Jewelry Council Certification and conduct a more thorough examination of our environmental commitments and Human Rights Commitments.

Any questions or concerns with the activities or policies of TechForm should be brought to the management team by emailing info@techformcasting.com