American Athletic, Inc., A Division of Russell Athletic contacted the local Micro Air distributor, Environmental Air Technology regarding an ongoing weld fume and smoke problem. Both management and the employees agreed that the current air quality condition was not acceptable and that something must be done. The current method for handling the welding smoke and dust was to either open the doors, or exhaust everything. With the rise in energy costs, the loss of plant heat was becoming a major expense.

During our initial visit, visible smoke was hanging throughout the facility, not just the welding area. The plant was cold and everything was covered with a fine layer of dust. Representatives from two other air cleaning companies had already visited the facility and proposed their solutions. One of the manufacturers recommended one large dust collector installed outside the building with source capture arms located in each weld cell. The other recommended ambient dust collectors installed throughout the facility, not just the welding area. Environmental Air Technology was awarded the job by pointing out that if we captured the air contaminants properly, equipment would not be needed in non-welding areas which would dramatically reduce the overall investment.

It was apparent that source capture would not work due to the large parts being manufactured and the many different collection points to be dealt with. It was recommended the installation of five (5) Micro-Air® MC3000 units installed as shown. During the quoting process, not only were they provided Cad drawings, showing unit placement, air flow direction, etc, but also a comparison of what they were currently paying for the air being exhausted versus the cost of the Micro-Air® air cleaning system. The end user was readily able to justify the purchase of the equipment based on the data provided.

Mr. Bill Cloninger, the plant manager stated that they “should have done this years ago and is very pleased with the system” He has recommended the Micro-Air® equipment to several other companies.