

RMT Distributor Highlight: Vallen Distribution

Vallen's mission is to continue to passionately serve their customers and suppliers with responsiveness, expertise and empathy, while striving to continuously learn and improve performance.

Vallen is the leading provider of indirect industrial supplies – from earplugs to hand tools, to abrasives and cutting tools, Vallen covers the vast majority of their customers maintenance, repair, operations and production-related needs.

Many of Vallen's customers look to Vallen for integrated supply solutions and vendor managed inventory, with Vallen associates on-site, bringing local knowledge and expertise to the specific needs of individual facilities.

Vallen has been an RMT distributor for the past 18 years and RMT will continue to work with Vallen to expand their product offering.



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The Navy's Real-Life Ray Gun

The U.S. Office of Naval Research recently ordered a “compact, portable” laser weapon system, according to a Department of Defense contract notice filed in 2021. In other words, it's basically funding a real-life ray gun. The Navy will use the weapon, known as the Counter-Unmanned Air Systems High Energy Laser Weapon System (or C-UAS HELWS for short), to shoot down drones.

MZA Associates Corporation, based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, will design, develop, deliver, integrate, test, and demonstrate the new laser gun, according to the \$18.7 million contract that was awarded. Development will take place between Albuquerque and Dayton, Ohio, and should be completed between 2023 and 2025.

Although it's still a long way from the handheld ray guns popularized in science fiction movies, this new ray technology does illustrate a trend in laser weapon miniaturization, made possible by government-funded research and development.

That's good news because lasers are very effective against drones. A focused beam of light can quickly heat up a drone's exterior, inducing structural failure and causing it to crash to the ground. For a fixed-wing drone, that might mean burning one of the wings off. A laser could down a quadcopter-style drone by melting a plastic or metal arm supporting one of its propellers. A laser could also ignite a drone's liquid fuel supply or blind its optical sensors – especially those used by a human controller to guide it to a target.

Lasers have other advantages also, among them are that lasers are unaffected by gravity, a serious consideration with ballistic projectiles (like bullets) at extended distances. They also can't run out of ammunition, though the generator that powers the lasers can run out of fuel, or a battery might run down.

We won't likely see a handheld laser blaster anytime soon, but a breakthrough in energy storage technology could push a true ray gun forward into the final frontier. Never say never!

Have You Heard?

RMT has hosted the annual Holiday Party for many years now. We all have enjoyed an amazing evening of good music, great food, plenty of drinks, and great conversation. But the thing that gets everyone excited is the Gift Drawings!

RMT's first holiday party, many, many, years ago, only one gift was donated: a TV by Mat Curry from MC Sales. Corey Brown was the winner that year and since that time, RMT has had over \$7,000 in gifts donated each year!

Everything from gift cards to TV's, from Kayaks to rifles has been donated. As an RMT employee, we have been blessed with the generosity of our Reps, Vendors, and company over the years.

Unfortunately, this year, as with last year, RMT will not be hosting a Holiday Party due to the number of COVID-19 outbreaks in the plant and valley.

As in 2020, RMT will have weekly drawings for some amazing gifts. All the gifts are donated by our fabulous & outstanding RMT Reps and by our amazing company, Rocky Mountain Twist!

There will be postings throughout the plant listing all donated gifts and will be updated weekly.

Drawings will be held on 12/3, 12/10, & 12/17 - an email will be sent out listing the weekly winners. Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season!

As of 11/9: Donations Received

*Inflatable Kayak
(Donated by Jim Lawson)

*Gift Basket
(Donated by Jeff Schmidt)

*(2) \$100 Gift Cards
(Donated by
Chris & Kirk Beavers)

*55" Smart TV
(Donated by Mat Curry)

*Paddle Board with pump
& accessories
(Donated by Mark
Stinchcomb)

*Tikka T3X Lite Rifle w/
Creedmore Cartridges
(Donated by
David & John Browne)

*Coleman Propane Coffee
Pot for camping
(Donated by Tom Paine)

*\$100 Visa Gift Card
(Donated by
Javier Zermeno)

Rocky Mountain Twist Donations

*Samsung Galaxy Tablet
w/cover, YOUTUBE
premium for 3 months

*Kitchenaid Mixer, 5 Qt

*Fitbit Sense Smartwatch

*Ninja Kitchen Blender

*Bose Noise Canceling
Headphones

This Month's Safety Tip

It's time to Winterize

Winterizing your home eliminates many inconveniences caused by weather-related losses. To minimize potential risks due to cold and freezing temperatures, follow these easy, do-it-yourself tips!

Gutters: Remove leaves, sticks, and other debris from gutters so any ice can flow freely. This can prevent ice dams from forming, which can push melting ice under the roofing and into your attic.

Windows: Repair any broken windows and replace any worn weather seals around all windows and doors.

Pipes: Wrap pipes with pipe insulation or heating tape and insulate unfinished rooms such as garages that have exposed pipes. Also, check for cracks or leaks. Repair them immediately to prevent costly repairs in the future.

Plumbing: Learn how to shut off your water and know where your home's pipes are located. If pipes freeze, you may be able to prevent the pipes from bursting by taking immediate action. Quickly shut off the water and direct your plumber to the problem.