

Sponsored By:


[Articles](#) | [Communities](#) | [Channels](#) | [Resin Pricing](#) | [Webinars](#) | [Resources](#) | [SourceBook](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Members](#) | [Subscribe Now](#)


Innovative Hotrunner Solutions

EWIKON

Rising tide of medical disposables market lifts suppliers' boats

By Norbert Sparrow

Published: February 17th, 2015

Share

The high-volume medical disposables market is seeing significant growth, at least from the perspectives of two contract manufacturers. Mack Medical (Arlington, VT) and GW Plastics (Bethel, VT) both announced major investments at the MD&M West trade show last week in Anaheim, CA, to satisfy demand from medical customers.

Mack Medical will spend \$2 million to expand its cleanroom molding and assembly operations for the medical disposables market, announced Jeff Somple, President. The company is building its third molding and assembly cleanroom at its headquarters, which will house four electric presses—two 44-t vertical machines as well as 60- and 199-t horizontal systems—from Japan Steel Works. The cleanroom will include space for part conveyance from an adjacent soft-walled cleanroom equipped with an automated 500-t press.

The 3500-sq-ft cleanroom is scheduled to be certified to the ISO Class 8 standard by April 1, 2015, and the company anticipates shipping parts by the end of April.

To support what it calls a "major award of new business by a market-leading Fortune 500 customer," GW Plastics has added two high-speed injection molding machines at its headquarters in Bethel. It has purchased two 240-t molding machines and automated systems from Netstal to meet demand for high-volume medical packaging.

The presses will run in a Class 8 cleanroom, which is undergoing an upgrade to accommodate the machines and facilitate part handling. The production cell will include high-speed robotics, part handling, end-of-arm tooling, automated packaging and metrology equipment. GW Plastics expects to invest more than \$1.5 million to support the expansion.

The investment is necessary to remain competitive, said John Silvia, Vice President, Manufacturing/Engineering, and Bethel Plant Manager. "The high-volume medical packaging market requires manufacturers capable of operating high-cavitation molds using reliable high-speed molding machines with automated inline production capabilities running at sub-seven-second cycle times," said Silvia. This investment demonstrates the company's continued commitment to its medical customers, he adds.

The investment comes on the heels of multimillion dollar expansions in the company's Arizona and China facilities to support its growing medical device molding and contract assembly business.

Use up to 75% less energy drying resin



Learn more

MATSUI

Related Articles

[Molders investing plenty in cleanroom molding, assembly](#)

[Mack makes machinery investments in response to medical market](#)

[MD&M East: Cleanroom boom for GW, Nypro, Hi-Tech, and Integrity](#)

[Large Midwest molder eyes bigger medical share with cleanroom addition](#)

Chinaplas[®] 2015
 20-23. 5. 2015
 Guangzhou, PR China

The 29th International Exhibition on Plastics and Rubber Industries

www.ChinaplasOnline.com