

Mack Molding medical supply expands amount of orthopedic products

Bennington Banner

Posted:

BenningtonBanner.com

KEITH WHITCOMB JR.

Staff Writer

ARLINGTON -- Mack Molding has announced the addition of a "cleanroom" to its production facility on Warm Brook Road that will allow it to increase the amount of orthopedic products it manufactures.

Spokeswoman Julie Horst said the expansion is a 2,000-square-foot room that features removable panels should Mack wish to expand it. Its purpose, she said, is to filter out impurities in the air such as dust that would cause problems when the equipment it makes is made and used. It is not a "sterile" room, she said.

The expansion does not reflect an increase in jobs, but does reflect the company's movement toward medical supplies. About one third of the products the plastics molding company makes are for the medical field. A few years ago it formed Mack Medical, a medical supply division, and that aspect of the business is approaching 40 percent of what Mack does. She said within the medical division are distinct markets such as orthopedics, medical devices, and disposable products.

Horst said the new cleanroom houses six electric molding machines, each weighing 110 tons. They are energy efficient, she said, and Mack expects to use 60 percent less energy than they did with hydraulic counterparts. It also houses a new laser welder which doubles the former capacity.

"These steps represent the latest in a long list of investments Mack has made over the last 12 years in the medical market, which is now approaching 40 percent of overall sales for the northern division," said Jeff Somple, president of Mack's Northern Operations.

Mack has also created a new business unit for the orthopedics and disposable market.

"We have seen significant growth in orthopedics, so felt it necessary to establish a dedicated group that will focus solely on the needs of this market and its customers," said Dwalin DeBoer, head of the new unit.