

Rutland Herald

This is a printer friendly version of an article from www.rutlandherald.com

To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Aug 8, 2011

Mack Molding now employs more than 500

By Patrick McArdle

STAFF WRITER

ARLINGTON — Mack Molding has increased its work force from about 450 to more than 500 in the past year and added new equipment to its main plant in Arlington, according to Jeff Somple, president of Mack's northern division and Mack Medical.

"Just in the last two months this summer, it's been incredibly busy for us. We've added another, roughly 24 or 25 people, so we're now over the 500 mark, which means that in a little over a year, if you go back to last May, we've added 100 people in the last 15 months. ... The numbers are good. That's our overall head count and we still have current job openings in the technical arena that we're still trying to fill," he said.

In fact, Somple said the biggest challenge Mack faces is finding qualified employees.

"It's a nice challenge to have but it is a challenge. Being where we are, located in Southern Vermont, we don't have a lot of other manufacturers around here so we're finding ourselves having to recruit a lot of times from out of state to get people to come in here," he said.

The company has developed its internship program to "expose some of the bright young people in the area to Mack and what we do," Somple said.

"It was really exciting for me this year because we had one of our first interns, from a few years ago, has actually come back and is working here full time. ... It's kind of like stocking a salmon stream. You put out all the little salmon and you hope a few years later one of them comes back from the ocean. We got our first salmon back this year," he said.

Mack Molding, founded in 1920, is a customs plastics molder that designs and manufactures products, many of them for the medical community.

Somple said Mack's work in the medical field had "just exploded for us over the last few years" and accounts for more than 40 percent of Mack's business. Some of the products for the medical market are in various stages of being rolled out.

"We're looking at substantial growth for the next two years just with work that we already have in-house. On top of that, we continuing to aggressively sell and market ourselves out there," he said.

Mack has been adding equipment like a new laser, installed in late June, which Somple described as an "enormous piece of equipment which takes sheets of metals and cuts them and then we form them into various medical products." Last year, Mack spent

more than \$1 million to install a machining center.

"We're continuing to invest. We're making additional investments as we speak. We're getting ready to buy another laser welder, which is another piece of equipment used in our metal operation. That'll be operational in a few months. We're actively soliciting quotations for a clean room molding operation," Somple said.

Mack has a policy of what it calls "smart vertical integration" of adding new services and capacities to its plant so that the company can handle as much of the manufacturing, instead of working with other manufacturers, as possible.

patrick.mcardle@rutlandherald.com
