

## Mack Molding acquires company

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ARLINGTON -- Mack Molding says the medical product development company it has purchased will help keep its workers busy in years to come.

Mack Molding announced Monday that it finalized a deal with Synectic Engineering Inc., of Milford, Conn., to acquire the company's engineers, facility, and industrial designers.

Jeff Somple, president of Mack Molding's Northern Operations, said Wednesday that Synectic's employees will be staying where they are, but the benefit to Mack and the locals that it employs will be that most of the products Synectic develops will be manufactured by Mack Molding.

Somple said that in the manufacturing industry there are companies that take ideas and plans for products and turn them into something that can be mass produced. Synectic is such a company and has been doing it since 1981. Individuals or firms take their idea, sketch, plan, or working model to a company like Synectic which fine tunes the product, decides what material to build it out of, and comes up with a plan on how to mass produce it. The entity that had the product in the first place ends up with a package which they can take to a company like Mack Molding which does the production work.

Somple said oftentimes there are still some kinks left to work out in a product package after it goes from developer to manufacturer, but having the developer and manufacturer be in the same corporation there are less problems. It also leads to better, more marketable products.

"This investment will allow Mack to augment its front-end services with clinically driven product development professionals that focus 100 percent of their time and talent on product design and development," said Somple in a release.

He said Mack will be able to get involved in the development stage of a product much earlier than normal.

Somple said that Synectic makes medical equipment which Mack has been heavily involved in producing in past years. He said Synectic has in its employ talented engineers and admirable testing facilities. He said one of their testing methods is using animal tissue from nearby butcher shops to see how surgical equipment will work in practice. It also consults with doctors who actually use the items.

According to Somple, Synectic's previous owners, Jeff Stein and Pam Zeller, who also founded the company, were looking to retire and sell what they had built. He said they were looking for a company that would keep the Synectic employees where they were and maintain the company's character. Somple said Mack Molding's prototype division had worked with Synectic before, but Mack Molding heard about the business being for sale through a broker.

"Synectic gains the financial backing of a large contract manufacturer with extensive prototyping and manufacturing services. Mack adds more firepower and muscle behind its front-end services. And customers have the luxury of managing and auditing only one supplier with a robust complement of product development, molding, metal and total product manufacturing services," said Somple in a statement.

"We are all very excited about joining Mack, which will allow us to keep programs under one roof," said Adam Lehman, the new president of Synectic. "We'll now be able to provide uninterrupted oversight and support for the full life of a program, rather than handing off to a manufacturing partner. The whole process will now be seamless, because Mack will be involved from the start."

Lehman had been vice president and chief operating officer of the company.

The terms of the sale were not released.