

Medical conference to showcase molding techniques

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PLASTICS NEWS REPORT

AKRON, OHIO (May 16, 4 p.m. ET) -- *Plastics News'* Plastics in Medical Devices 2012 conference will showcase some of the latest developments in molding techniques for medical applications.

The June 11-13 event in Westlake, Ohio, near the Cleveland airport, will include a session on using external gas-assist molding in processing parts for medical devices. The session will be lead by Michael Hansen, senior technical development engineer with Mack Molding Co. of Arlington, Vt.

According to Mack, the process features a unit that introduces nitrogen gas into a mold cavity after it has been filled with plastic. The compressed nitrogen displaces a portion of the molten plastic when injected into the cavity. The result is hollow parts that are light and relatively inexpensive to make.

Designers can use gas-assist molding to create thin-walled parts. Such parts can be molded with low clamp tonnage, which reduces both tooling cost and required injection molding machine size. The gas-assist technique is ideal for adding thick, hollowed-out sections to otherwise thin-walled parts.

Mack Molding sees strong sales in medical for 2012. See this story, "[Mack sees strong sales in 2012](#)," featuring Jeff Somple, president of Mack Molding's Northern operations.

The PMD program also features molders Atek Plastics, Blackwell Plastics Inc., GW Silicones, Performance Plastics Ltd. and PMC LLC. The lineup also includes presenters from medical device OEMs Cardinal Health Inc., Cannuflow Inc., Future Path Medical Holding Co. and U.S. Endoscopy, as well as an additive manufacturing guru from Materialise NV, and experts in the FDA approval process.

Go to www.plasticsnews.com/pmd2012 for full details.

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