

## Mack boosts services for orthopedic market



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MackMedical/Mack Molding has added critical services that will further support its fast-growing orthopedic business, including cleanroom molding, additional laser welding capacity, and a new business unit dedicated to orthopedics and disposable medical devices.

“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,” says Jeff Somple, president of Mack’s Northern Operations.

The new 2,000-sq-ft modular cleanroom features removable panels that will make future expansions easy. Dual air-lock, rapid roll-up doors allow for easy product flow and quick tool changes. Just completed, the cleanroom is certified to the ISO 14644-1 Class 8 standard.

The new facility houses six electric injection molding machines – all 110-ton, high precision presses from Toshiba Machine Co., Ltd. The electric presses were chosen for energy-efficiency and precise process control. Mack expects about 60 percent less energy consumption from these machines over their equivalent hydraulic counterparts. The presses are also outfitted with high pressure water controllers that allow more versatility in resin selection.

In another move, Mack has doubled its high precision laser welding capacity to meet the growing needs of the orthopedic surgical case and tray market. Made by Litron, the system is tailor-made to laser weld Mack’s preferred bracket design for holding surgical instruments. The resulting hermetically sealed weld bead is free of gas, air and contaminants, producing a more robust and inherently cleaner assembly than traditional riveting methods.

Powered by a Trumpf laser, the welding cabinet can accommodate a work piece of 19.5” in the X coordinate, 11.5” in the Y coordinate, and 10” in the Z coordinate. The Fanuc CNC programmable system can fuse materials into a continuous weld bead up to 12mm.

Mack has also formed a new business unit dedicated to orthopedics and disposable medical devices. “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, says Dwalin DeBoer, who is heading up the new unit. A chemical engineer, DeBoer has worked at Mack in several functional areas over the past 11 years. Earlier experiences included stints with Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, GE Plastics (now Sabic), and Monsanto Plastics. Joining her are Dawn Bacon, customer

service representative, and Cassie Earley and Rich Hornby, program managers.

## About Mack Molding

Mack Molding is a leading custom plastics molder and supplier of contract manufacturing services. Mack specializes in plastics design, prototyping, molding, sheet metal fabrication, full-service machining and medical device manufacturing. Founded in 1920, Mack is a privately owned business that operates 10 facilities throughout the world. Don Kendall is president and CEO. For more information, go to [www.mack.com](http://www.mack.com).

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