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The retirement of Bruce Bixler, a 36-year employee of Mack Molding who headed up purchasing, started a reorganization of the company's senior management that includes adding some new staff, but mostly taps internal talent. Net result: 80 years of plastics expertise moves into leadership positions.


Jeff Somple, president of Mack's Northern Operations based in Arlington, VT, announced the changes, saying, "I'm thrilled to be able to fill these openings from within the company, and look forward to the contributions that I know each will make in the coming years."

Marc Colety, who has been manager of Mack's Cavendish, VT plant, has taken over from Bixler as director of procurement, and Gene Birmingham has moved into the plant manager spot vacated by Colety. Colety has 15 years of management experience with Mack in the areas of molding, manufacturing, and plant operations, a business degree, and has trained in quality, lean, management, and statistical methods.

Birmingham has been manufacturing manager at Cavendish for eight years prior to this move, and before that worked as a manufacturing/quality engineer for five years. He holds a bachelor's degree in packaging engineering from Michigan state, and has trained in lean and Six Sigma among other manufacturing disciplines.

Additionally, Bryan Campbell has been promoted to plant manager, Headquarters facility, and Carl Bickford has taken on the new position of quality manager-contract manufacturing. Campbell, a former operation manager for a Tier One auto supplier, joined Mack two years ago in sales, and will be able to use the first-hand experience he had with Mack's medical OEM customers in the operation of what is primarily a medical device manufacturing facility. On top of his bachelor's degree in business, he has completed lean training with Toyota and the University of Kentucky.

A 20-year Mack veteran, Carl Bickford will be in the new position of quality manager-contract manufacturing at Mack's headquarters plant, supervising an engineering staff and Mack's metrology lab. Somple said the HQ plant, which is the hub of Mack's CM business, has developed to where it needed the added level of quality management that Bickford brings to it. He also holds an electrical/electronic engineering degree from Vermont Technical College.

Founded in 1920 and privately owned, [Mack Molding](#)  operates 10 facilities around the world, providing design through FDA-approved manufacturing services to medical, surgical,

orthopedic, diagnostic, and drug delivery OEMs.

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