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Mack Molding (Arlington, VT) announced the addition of two Stratasys FDM (fused deposition modeling) machines at MD&M West (Anaheim, CA; Feb. 9-11), with one destined for its MackMedical business and the other to be used by sister division, Mack Prototype. One FDM will be installed at the Application Development Center located at its headquarters, which also houses the new medical unit. Primarily used in orthopedic applications, the Stratasys unit can build parts in acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) with a 8-by-8-by-10-inch build envelope and 0.010-inch thick layers. The system will be used for design verification and to ensure snap-fit parts are functional, as well as to create part-specific measurement fixtures for orthopedic applications.

A Fortus 100 with a larger build area, 14-by-16-by-14 inches, is headed to Mack Prototype. With resolution of 0.005-inch, it builds in layers 0.013-inch thick. The system can print parts in ABS 30i, which is an ISO 10993 biocompatible material, or polycarbonate (PC)/ABS. In some instances, the machine will be used for low-volume production, according to the company.

At the same show, the company announced placing an order for three all-electric injection molding machines from Toshiba. The three EC Servo presses will have 110-tons of clamping force, a 3.4-ounce shot size, and will serve the medical market from the company's Vermont headquarters. The company says its push into medical goes back 10 years and the sector now provides one third of its business. The company now has 123 molding machines, ranging in size from 28 to 4000 tons. It expects the new machines to be up and running in mid March.

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