
Connecticut Molder Plastic Design Adds Presses, Training Space

By Frank Antosiewicz

MIDDLETOWN, CONN. (Jan. 19, 1:15 p.m. ET) -- Plastic Design International Inc. recently added two Niigata all-electric molding machines and is in the process of adding a conference and training room.

“We’ve made a substantial investment in capital equipment, about \$250,000 in the last three months,” said Steve Everett, PDI Manufacturing Manager, in a telephone interview.

He said that the company added presses with a 110 ton and 200 ton capability. PDI also added three portable drying units, two sprue pickers, two mold heaters and a parts conveyer.

“We’re optimistic. Business is picking up and we’re headed in the right direction,” he said.

PDI is converting 1,000 square feet of space to a conference and training room that it expects will be ready in mid-February.

The Middletown, Conn.-based company runs a 24-hour, seven-day a week operation that includes lights-out capability. It handles precision work ranging from automotive to commercial and military.

Everett said that the company has worked about 10 years with the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund and its electricity supplier, Connecticut Light and Power, to improve efficiency. Improvements have included investments in presses, lighting and a high-efficiency chiller system for the molding department.

PDI operates out of 55,000 square feet of space, occupying two buildings that are on adjacent sites. It operates 17 presses, ranging from 35 to 385 tons. It also has five more presses at a satellite operation in Pittsfield, Maine. Overall, it has 70 employees.

In the past year, the company has also added a three-axis CNC machine for its tool room, as well as three bench top three-axis CNC machines for secondary services.

“We try to design molds so that they are lights-out capable,” Everett said.

Don Bergeron, the current President, founded the company about 30 years ago. Everett and four other employees have come on as minority owners in the last five years.

Also part of the ownership team are: Vice President Yvonne Ledoux, Controller Dom Albano, ISO and Documentation Specialist Kimberly Guillemain, Tooling and Mold Purchase Specialist Suzette Gaudet.
