



China Array Plastics

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China Array Plastics Expands Medical Molding Capabilities

Company Adds Two New Injection Molding Cells Dedicated to Processing Medical Grade Polymers

Pittsfield, Mass. – May 5, 2009 – China Array Plastics, a full-service injection molder of high performance thermoplastics headquartered here with molding facilities in Wuhan, China, has added two new injection molding cells with clamp tonnage of 55 and 150 tons to mold medical-grade polymers with a particular focus on polyetheretherketone (PEEK) and polyethersulfone (PESU). Since beginning to mold medical and dental devices in 2008, the company has seen demand grow in the United States, Europe and Asia. The addition of the two new cells will dramatically increase the company's capacity to meet this demand.

China Array's capability in processing high performance polymers lends itself well to the production of medical devices. Medical products are typically subjected to severe environments of sterilization and disinfection, requiring the use of resins such as PEEK and Polysulfones (PSU) that can withstand heat and chemicals. These materials mold at higher temperatures and pressures than engineering grades of resins, and often have unique molding characteristics, so control of the injection molding process is vital. A key part of that control is having the appropriate equipment.

China Array's new medical injection molding cells consist of Welltec 55 and 150 ton precision series injection molding machines. These machines feature Bosch hydraulic valves and Interbot high torque motors; nitrate hardened alloy screws and barrels; and ceramic heater bands. Both machines can develop pressures and speeds up to 40 percent higher than others in their class. The machines are also equipped with Xaloy™ screw/barrel assemblies for specialized applications such as Torlon molding.

Auxiliary equipment includes the Wittmann Temprow 250 mold temperature controller, a thermic oil system able to bring molds to 250 C, which is necessary to maximize molded part quality and cycle effectiveness for high performance polymers. Matsui rotary bed desiccant dryers reduce moisture levels to -60 differential pressure (DP) or lower, which are verified using the new Sartorius-Omnimark Mark 3 moisture analyzer. Using infrared heating, the Mark 3 can detect moisture levels as low as 500 parts-per-million (ppm). In addition, China Array has installed programmable hot-air circulating ovens made by Despatch Industries of Minneapolis, MN. to cure and anneal molded plastic components for strength and stress reduction.

High-Performance Thermoplastics Molded by China Array Include:

- **TORLON®**: polyamide-imide (PAI)
- Polyetheretherketone (PEEK)
- Polyetherketoneketone (PEKK)
- Polysulfone (PSU)
- **Radel® R**: Polyphenylsulfone (PPSU)
- **Radel® A**: Polyethersulfone (PESU)
- **Ultem***: Polyetherimide (PEI)
- **Valox***: Polybutylenterephthalate (PBT)
- **Lexan***: Polycarbonate (PC)

“Medical molding is a perfect fit for our company’s molding strategy,” states Carl Olson, China Array’s vice president of Sales and Marketing. “It requires extensive upfront engineering and application development, which is a core competency of China Array, and each step of the process must be planned with the materials’ unique molding characteristics in mind. We’ll be molding complete components as well as near net shapes.”

With clamp tonnage capabilities ranging from 50-150 tons, China Array Plastics is among the first in China to specialize in custom molding high-performance thermoplastics such as PSU, PESU, PEI and PEEK used in demanding medical and high-tech applications. These include medical and dental devices, EMI absorbers for wireless communications, dairy and food processing equipment, vapor proof light globes, optical quality surveillance camera domes, high amperage electrical connector housings, and a variety of other high-performance components.

China Array's new molding capabilities further underscore its growth strategy to differentiate itself as a market leader and innovator in the injection molding of high-performance thermoplastic materials in Asia. China Array is now producing and delivering high performance polymer products locally in China, to both domestic Chinese manufacturers and multi-national OEMs in the medical industry. The company continues to target and serve high-end niche markets where these materials are increasingly in demand, such as the electronics, fluid-handling, and aerospace industries where high-value, low-volume applications are required. In support of its world-class injection molding expertise, China Array Plastics also offers customers advanced engineering, mold design, application development, and testing services to further support customer growth and innovation.

About China Array Plastics

China Array Plastics is a full-service custom injection molder specializing in high-performance thermoplastics. The company was founded by Russell Johnson, who has been contract manufacturing industrial products in China since 1980. Johnson has also served as an advisor to Harvard Business School's Asian Research Center on manufacturing in China.

China Array Plastics selected Wuhan for its China headquarters due to the city's historical position as the heartland of Chinese industry. Wuhan, which is home to several universities and technical institutions, offers skilled workers, a well developed infrastructure, and excellent distribution. The capital of Hubei Province, Wuhan straddles the Yangtze River at the nexus of main river, rail, and highway routes running north/south and east/west across China. Approximately equidistant from Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, it is perfectly situated for supplying customers within China or for reaching coastal ports for export.

China Array Plastics is an American company. The molding facility – technically called China Array Wuhan – is a wholly owned foreign enterprise (WFOE): a structure that allows China Array Plastics to protect its customers' intellectual property rights and gives them the confidence of dealing with a firm that operates under the laws and business practices of the United States.

For more information on China Array Plastics go to: www.chinaarrayplastics.com

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China Array Plastics Expands Medical & Dental Device Molding



Photograph: Medical Injection Molding Cells at China Array Wuhan, Wuhan, China

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