

CONNECTING THE MOLDING COMMUNITY

June 2009

INJECTION MOLDING



NPE 2009:
Time to Go
(yes, you)

MICRO SHOTS

Bioplastic is compostable certified

Mirel bioplastic resins received the final two OK biodegradable certifications from materials inspection and certification firm Vinçotte (Vilvoorde, Belgium), making this material produced by Metabolix (Cambridge, MA; www.metabolix.com) the only nonstarch bioplastic to gain all four Vinçotte certifications. This verifies that Mirel will biodegrade under home and industrial composting conditions of varying temperatures, and meets the EU packaging directive and the EN 13432:2000 standard.

Purging packaging goes green

To further enhance the green efforts of Asaclean's (Parsippany, NJ; www.asaclean.com) customers, the company now distributes its purging compound in poly-bag packaging that is 100% recyclable. When comparing 90,000 "drums" of the new packaging with fiber drums, packaging sent to landfills is reduced from 490 tons to 41 tons, and landfill costs decrease from around \$122,500 to \$10,200. A recycling pickup service for the used bags is also provided.

Find more news at imm.plasticstoday.com.

Coalition of mold, tool, and die makers takes on the auto industry in Washington, DC

The North American Automotive Tooling Coalition (NAATC) went to Washington, DC on April 27 to meet with the Federal government's Automotive Task Force at the U.S. Treasury. The groups discussed issues critical to the survival of the mold, tool, and die industries, including the impact of implementation of "reasonable commercial payment terms" on tooling orders; implementation of a "safe passage" mechanism to ensure OEM tool proceeds navigate financially challenged Tier Ones through to the Tier Two tool manufacturers; the impact of OEM or major Tier One Chapter 11 filings on tooling purchasing commitments, both existing and future; and strategies and working groups directed to reduce OEM tooling acquisition costs and to develop manufacturing innovation.

David Markowitz, a representative of the Task Force, made it clear in the meeting that the Automotive Task Force does not want to get into the administration of the relationship

between Tier One and Two suppliers, and has given the "tooling reins" to the OEMs. He also noted that as far as the business relationship between Tier Ones and their Tier Two suppliers, that is a relationship each tool manufacturer must work on individually.

The NAATC's focus in the meeting was on payment terms to the mold, tool, and die makers. According to the coalition's standpoint, if the Federal government became the lender of last resort, it should have the ability to influence the terms of any public funding being provided to the OEMs; and the terms suggested by the coalition would ensure that payments flow down to smaller tool shops in a "normal, commercially acceptable time frame" for work completed and shipped. However, the meeting failed to reach this objective and, according to the NAATC, the Task Force had no interest in becoming involved in these types of transactions. (Full story at plasticstoday.com/articles/naatc.)—CG



Moldmaker invests more than a million in new machining centers

Specializing in midsized, mechanically complex molds, Industrial Molds Group (Rockford, IL; www.industrialmolds.com) has invested more than \$1 million in three new high-speed machining centers. The company started in 1968 and is now providing new product development assistance, part and mold design, mold sampling and qualification, and flow analysis using Moldflow's Mold Advisor from its 42,000-ft² facility. The new machines will strengthen the ISO 9001:2000-certified company's high-speed machining operations, helping to create intricate molds for a variety of applications, including fluid management systems, fuel and engine components, and consumer products.

Two of the machines are from Makino—a V99 and S56. The HSK100 V99 vertical machining center has a spindle speed of 13,000 rpm with rapid traverse and cutting feedrate of 787 in/min, making it ideal for quickly roughing and finishing hardened steel cores or cavities for workpieces up to 4.4 tons. The S56 has the stiffness and rigidity required for hard-cutting applications, with a speedy 1574 in/min feedrate necessary for high surface quality in demanding mold applications.

Specifically designed to handle large-capacity vertical machining, the third addition is a Hurco VMX64, complete with 24-station automatic tool changer, 50-taper spindle, and a redesigned