

Press Release

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Contact: Rebecca Murphy

Corporate Marketing Specialist
239 Pleasant Street
Bethel, VT 05032
+1 (802) 234-9941
Rebecca.Murphy@GWPlastics.com

GW Plastics Grows Worldwide Advanced Manufacturing Operations

Leading Contract Manufacturer Invests \$25M for Expansions and Technology, Receives Growth Award

Bethel, VT – Global plastic and silicone injection molder and contract manufacturer GW Plastics, Inc. is proud to celebrate its company growth over the last five years – significantly re-investing in almost every area of its business. With major expansions of its Vermont, Arizona, Texas, and China facilities and purchase of Irish moldmaking company Avenue Mould Solutions, GW Plastics has grown to a combined 500,000 square feet of environmentally-controlled, advanced manufacturing space and currently offers complete medical device contract manufacturing and moldmaking services on three continents.

GW Plastics began expanding their facilities in response to growing customer demand in its global medical device and drug delivery business. Starting with the multimillion dollar expansion of its Dongguan, China location in 2014 to a new, state-of-the-art 125,000 square foot facility more than doubling the size of its existing facility, GW Plastics has invested heavily in its in-house tooling, automated cleanroom molding, and finished device manufacturing capabilities in Asia. GW Plastics has since provided their customers with the option to commercialize a project domestically in the United States or in a low-cost country, delivering a flexible yet cost-effective manufacturing alternative that many companies cannot offer.



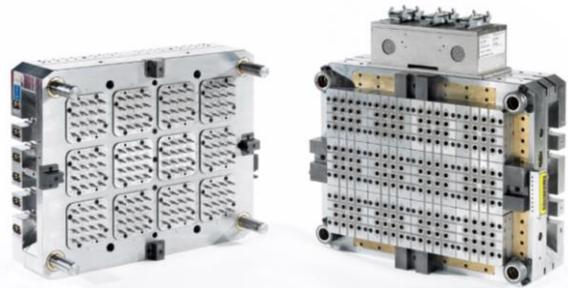
During this same time, GW Plastics also launched a major expansion of its U.S. operations including its Tucson, AZ facility to offer cleanroom molding, contract assembly, warehousing, and regulatory office space. GW Tucson's medical device contract manufacturing capabilities have since grown to include cleanroom and whiteroom precision molding, automated and manual assembly, and finished packaging capabilities encompassing pouching, tray-lidding, rigid and flexible form, fill, seal (FFS), order fulfillment warehousing, and contract sterilization.

From 2015 to 2016, GW Plastics expanded its Vermont operations, first at its corporate headquarters in Bethel and then at its technology campus in Royalton. In Bethel, GW enlarged and renovated its Class 8 cleanroom to include high-speed robotics, part handling, end-of-arm tooling, automated packaging, and metrology equipment. Meanwhile, GW added 25,000 square feet to its Royalton operation to expand nearly every area, including its in-house precision Mold Making Division, Process Development and Training Center, and its affiliate, GW Silicones. This expansion included the purchase of 3D printing technology to support its product development capabilities, an enlarged Class 8 cleanroom for silicone manufacturing, and brand-new training and development facilities to support its industry-recognized scientific injection molding workforce training program.

In 2016, GW Plastics also celebrated the 10th anniversary of its fast-growing Querétaro, Mexico facility. Focusing on manufacturing high precision safety-critical automotive and medical device components, GW Querétaro offers its customers precision injection molding, contract assembly, and in-house tooling capability. GW Querétaro has invested heavily in scientific molding capabilities and advanced automation to deliver a remarkable Six Sigma quality performance to its customers with defect levels below 3.4 parts per million opportunities.

In 2017, GW Plastics launched a 14,000 square foot expansion of its San Antonio, TX facilities to accommodate the additional growth of its medical device manufacturing business in the southwestern US. This expansion brought a total of 51,000 square feet of advanced manufacturing and external warehousing space, allowing for improved process flow and future growth.

GW Plastics rounded out 2017 with their largest investment thus far: purchasing Ireland-based advanced moldmaking company Avenue Mould Solutions. Avenue brought to GW Plastics expertise in building ultra-high-cavitation tooling – up to 192 cavity molds – for the medical device, diagnostic, and pharmaceutical markets. This acquisition gave GW Plastics a unique industry position with precision mold-building facilities in North America, Asia, and Europe, in addition to injection molding and contract manufacturing. GW Plastics now ranks as one of the plastic industry's largest manufacturers of precision molds.



2018 marked an important year for GW Plastics. The company celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Process Development & Training Center in Royalton, VT with an expansion to now develop and qualify entire manufacturing cells in a dedicated non-production facility. Prior to the foundation of the Process Development Center, a production press would need to be used to test new molds, forcing interruptions of scheduled production. To improve speed-to-market, GW Plastics built a dedicated facility for mold testing and process development. The Process Development & Training Center has since been responsible for developing production processes for new molds to be introduced to all GW Plastics production facilities worldwide. GW Plastics achieved RJG certification as a Mold Tryout Facility in 2012 and is currently one of eight companies worldwide to have this certification.

In 2018, GW Plastics also expanded and upgraded its state-of-the-art tooling facility in Royalton, Vermont with additive manufacturing technology. GW Plastics has invested in advanced metal 3D printing technology for conformal cooling to improve cycle times – in some cases up to 30% – as well as improving component quality and design flexibility. This additive manufacturing technology

streamlines tool design, reducing the components and lead time needed to build a mold and the overall investment their customers need to make. GW Plastics is one of only a handful of precision mold builders that have invested in this technology.

GW Plastics rounded out 2018 with a celebration of the 10th anniversary of its affiliate, GW Silicones. Founded in 2008 in GW Plastics' Royalton, VT technology campus, GW Silicones has grown into a state-of-the-art operation offering highly-automated Class 8 cleanroom tooling, molding, and assembly. Since its inception 10 years ago, GW Silicones has completed three expansions, including a Class 8 ISO 9001 and ISO 13485 certified cleanroom. The cleanroom is equipped with all-electric, hybrid, and hydraulic machines, giving GW Silicones the ability to match the best machine to each prototype and production molding application. In keeping with GW Plastics' highly-automated manufacturing platform, GW Silicones has incorporated 6-axis robots that operate within the machine envelope, enabling both insert-loading and molded-part extraction.



This past year, GW Plastics was also a recipient of the 2018 Vermont Business Growth Award, which is presented annually by Vermont Business Magazine and KeyBank to the top Vermont businesses that have experienced the greatest growth over the past five years. GW Plastics was recognized for its impressive 52.4% growth over five years. In addition to the Vermont Business Growth Award, GW Plastics was awarded two grants of more than \$80,000 by the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development's Department of Economic Development. The first grant has supported GW Plastics' process engineering and apprenticeship training and the GW Plastics Manufacturing Technology Leadership Program. The second grant has supported GW Plastics' School of Tech, a semester-long, innovative program that exposes high school students to advanced manufacturing.

Over the past five years, GW Plastics' healthcare manufacturing business has continued to grow at such a rapid rate that the company is already looking at further expansions in 2019 in the U.S., Ireland, and Mexico for its thermoplastic and silicone molding and contract manufacturing business. "GW Plastics has implemented a deliberate and strategic growth strategy," says Brenan Riehl, GW Plastics President and CEO. "Our company has enjoyed ongoing year-over-year record revenue, and we are committed to supporting this growth by continuing to invest for our customers, worldwide."

During this time, GW Plastics has grown into a company of advanced manufacturing niches. GW offers product development services, in-house precision tooling, LSR tooling and molding, finished device cleanroom manufacturing, and multi-material molding including insert and two-shot molding. GW Plastics' worldwide operations have evolved to house cutting-edge molding and automation technologies, with a focus on scientific molding and lean manufacturing including advanced electric molding machines and innovative press-side and secondary automation. All of GW Plastics' facilities include extensive automation, whether it be high-speed robotics, automated precision component assembly, or secondary operations such as pad printing, laser marking, and component testing.

GW Plastics is one of the few companies that can provide a wide array of advanced in-house tooling, molding, and contract assembly capabilities on a highly standardized, global scale. This provides a tremendous competitive advantage to GW Plastics' customers. "Everything stems back to our people, technology, and willingness to consistently invest for our customers. As a 64-year-old company, GW has a defined and predictable culture of success that resonates with our customers," says Riehl. "Our ability to develop lasting relationships with our customers, partner early in the development process, and leverage our world-class engineering, tooling, and highly-standardized global production capabilities allows us to offer innovative, high-quality, and cost-effective solutions."



Over the past five years, GW Plastics has continued to gain momentum as an industry-recognized, state-of-the-art plastics and silicones contract manufacturing leader with eight facilities around the world and over 1,000 employees worldwide.

Global market-leading companies trust GW Plastics to deliver their most challenging projects. **To learn more about how GW Plastics' continued growth and advanced manufacturing capabilities can help you succeed with your next product, please visit their booth #2404 at the MD&M West 2019 Exposition in Anaheim, CA this February 5-7.**

About GW Plastics:

Founded in 1955, GW Plastics has earned a reputation as an industry leader in precision tooling, injection molding, and contract manufacturing serving the world's most successful companies in the healthcare, automotive safety-critical, and filtration markets. Specializing in complex injection molded thermoplastic and silicone solutions, GW Plastics excels at close tolerance mold building, precision injection molding, and contract manufacturing. With leading-edge technologies, a Six Sigma quality commitment, and a relentless pursuit of innovation, GW Plastics continues to attract and partner with market leaders who seek consistency of ownership, financial stability, professional leadership, business integrity, a high-tech standardized global manufacturing platform, and a highly-trained and experienced workforce. Headquartered in Bethel, Vermont, the company's standardized ISO 9001, ISO 13485, ISO/TS 16949, and FDA-registered, 21 CFR Part 820 compliant manufacturing facilities are located in Bethel and Royalton, Vermont; San Antonio, Texas; Tucson, Arizona; Querétaro, Mexico; Dongguan, China; and Sligo, Ireland. GW is a Plastics News' Processor of the Year and Sustained Excellence award winner.

Global market-leading OEMs trust GW Plastics to deliver their most challenging projects. For more information, please visit their website at www.GWPlastics.com.