

## Metal Helps Give Patients Sweet Dreams

When Airway Management Inc. wanted to improve its flagship product, the Thornton Adjustable Positioner (TAP) – a device for people who suffer from sleep apnea and snoring – it turned to Smith Metal Products for Metal Injection Molding (MIM) and BASF's Catamold feedstock.

"Using BASF's nickel-free stainless steel, Catamold Panacea, BASF and Smith are helping make the next generation Thornton Adjustable Positioner (TAP) stronger, sleeker, and more comfortable for patients," said Lauralee Gunby, President, Airway Management Inc.

Catamold is a granulated feedstock for MIM composed of a mixture of powdered metal and proprietary polymeric binders. MIM is a forming technology that uses Catamold to produce metal parts with complex geometries, superior corrosion resistance, and mechanical properties comparable to wrought.

"Previous generations of the TAP device were made using investment casting and machining for the metal parts," said Gunby. "The MIM process will enable us to achieve tighter device tolerances, and Catamold Panacea provides a nickel-free solution for our next-generation product." *Information:* [www.basf.com/usa](http://www.basf.com/usa) [1].

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[1] <http://www.basf.com/usa>