Major Investments in Facilities and Equipment Enhance Tool Making Capacity and Capability

Sil-Pro announces major investments in both capacity and capability in response to customer demand and growing tooling volumes. Demand for tighter tolerance molds, in addition to more complex prototype and production molds, were also contributing factors to the acquisition of the new facility and equipment. These new investments will support Sil-Pro's world-class capabilities in thermoplastics and silicone mold-making well into the future.

The greatly increased capacity was achieved by moving the tool manufacturing operations from Sil-Pro's corporate headquarters to a recently acquired 55,000 square feet facility on the same campus. The toolshop, which previously occupied 7,500 square feet, was at full capacity in terms of floor space. The new facility, which contains newly renovated 25,000 square feet, provides the immediate space necessary for additional machine tooling and staff, as well as ample space for future expansion.

Sil-Pro has made immediate use of the additional space with the addition of a Hermle 5-axis CNC machining center coupled with a System 3R WorkMaster automation system. This addition of equipment adds exponential machining capacity because of its ability to run unattended for long periods of time.

The new 5-axis machine minimizes the number of labor-intensive setups, which in turn improves lead times. "The Hermle 5-axis machining center coupled with a machine feeding robot is truly state-of-the-art moldmaking, extreme precision and highly efficient," reported Kevin Carver, President of Sil-Pro.

The new facility and equipment acquisitions have also allowed Sil-Pro to implement new manufacturing processes, such as standardization of mold base platforms and in-house stocking of mold inserts. These eliminate seven days of valuable processing time while reducing the overall mold-building expense. The new operating practices are in constant improvement as part of Sil-Pro's strategic initiatives program, which came forth from the design team collaboration of fifteen

designers and toolmakers.

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