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## PTG making mark in liquid silicones

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A veteran of the silicone, thermoplastics and plastics industries has launched a liquid silicone rubber molding business aimed primarily at the health care market but with the capability to serve other sectors.

Called PTG Silicones Inc., the business recently was started by Brendan Cahill and his wife, Amy, in New Albany to fill what he perceives as a need in the industry for an LSR molder with a world-class operation.

Cahill, who is president of the new company, earlier this year purchased a 5,100-sq.-ft. facility on a two-acre site that previously operated as a warehouse, "stripped it down to the steel skin" and rebuilt it into a modern, highly automated molding operation, he said.

"We installed a Class 100,000 clean room for manufacturing, set aside 3,000 square feet for non-clean room manufacturing and 1,100 square feet for offices and meeting rooms," he said. Overall, the firm has 4,000 square feet of production space.

The company then bought a 110-ton electric Arburg molding machine with a 25-millimeter LSR barrel for shot-size production, a 15-millimeter LSR barrel for small parts and prototype molding, and a 30-millimeter barrel for thermoplastic and two-shot LSR-thermoplastic development, Cahill said. The firm employs five.

PTG also added a fluid automation LSR pumping system, a Novatec thermoplastic material handling system, Advantage mold temperature controllers and chiller, a Staubli six axis servo robot, a FullMetrics manufacturing/production monitoring system and a Mitutoyo CNC measurement machine.

"If we can get a customer to come and visit us here, we will win that business," the executive said.

### 'Lights-out' operation

Cahill said he did much research before opening the facility, spending a year reviewing the playing field. "We learned that if you're going to open a plant in the U.S., it must be a world-class, highly automated, 'lights-out' operation."

PTG, which held its grand opening and ribbon cutting Oct. 25, gained new business-much of it excess jobs other companies couldn't handle-almost immediately when it began operating in April.

The firm has covered a lot of ground since then and is building its own base of customers. In fact, it has ordered a second automated LSR molding machine, which also will be housed in the clean room.

While its primary focus is the health care and medical products industries, it also serves the aerospace, industrial, automotive and appliance markets.

When Cahill put together a business plan, he knew the company would focus on LSR molding, but he also discovered quickly there was a need in the industry for a molder with expertise in thermoplastics.

Cahill has a strong background in the silicone and plastics industries. He spent six years at GE Plastics, where he worked as an advanced process technology development engineer and a field marketing manager. "During my time at GE, I was exposed to liquid silicone molding, but the industry wasn't ready for it yet," he said. "That end of the business has evolved significantly since then."

He left the firm to start Plastics Technology Group L.L.C., a consulting firm.

### Filling a void

Brendan and Jill Cahill, an intellectual property attorney who was expecting their second child at the time, decided to make changes in their careers. They moved from Washington, D.C., to Amy's hometown of Lexington, Ky., and Cahill cut back on consulting and began setting up his own silicone and thermoplastic molding operation.

The new business still requires late hours. "I put in the same hours if not more at PTG Silicones that I did when consulting, but I am much closer to home and my family can visit me at work," he said.

For instance, to ensure the firm runs 24 hours a day without operators on duty at night, Cahill has slept at the plant for several nights to monitor the situation. That's about to end, he said, because the automated machinery is operating as advertised.

In the long run those extra hours will pay off in a lower-cost operation, he said.

Cahill plans to continue to develop PTG's base in the medical and health care industry. He also wants to work with smaller, cutting-edge parts when possible, introduce more two-shot solutions to problems, and continue to build the firm's overmolding capabilities.

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