

Moldmaker's Plant Expansion Increases Ability to Repair Worn, Damaged Molds

By Sherry L. Baranek

Monroe Mold (Monroe, MI)—a manufacturer of bottle-specific molds and tooling for all extrusion blow molding platforms—recently completed a plant expansion that not only adds to its manufacturing capacity but also allows the company increased ability to repair damaged or worn molds, a market segment that has shown growth.

The company's molds are used to produce a broad array of blow molded products, especially containers for consumer products in the polyethylene-packaging industry. Additional industries Monroe Mold serves include automotive, lawn and garden, agriculture, household cleaners/chemicals, consumer goods, food products, medical/pharmaceuticals and packaging.

According to Al Hodge, president of R&B Holdings Co. LLC—parent firm to Monroe Mold—this expansion opens the doors to new equipment purchases, which include machining centers and inspection department equipment. The addition also houses engineering and conference areas.

Monroe Mold President Jim Ghesquire points out that despite an uncertain economy, the company has seen a steady increase in orders. "This new 7,650 sq. ft. addition considerably added to our 15,825 sq. ft. building," he notes. "We have a good reputation for service and support to keep customers' production schedules on target, and we are proud of our experienced moldmakers' abilities to make timely, difficult repairs on complex molds."



Monroe Mold employee Ed Sobesk examines a tool setting.

Not only will Monroe Mold's expansion help secure the company new business, it also strengthens its relationship with its sister company R&B Plastics Machinery—a manufacturer of blow molding machines, single screw plastic extruders and extruder process screws—and allows both companies to offer their

customers prototype development for bottle design trials.

R&B has a tech center with a sample mold machine to test pre-production bottle designs, which is a more cost-effective method for customers to evaluate pre-production bottles without tying up manufacturing lines, according to R&B Holdings Co. LLC President Al Hodge. He notes that customers can run samples on the company's machines to evaluate product quality



Photo courtesy of Monroe Mold.

Monroe Mold's plant expansion allows the company to add to its extrusion blow mold manufacturing capacity.

and fine-tune all stages of the bottle development process, which include: materials, mold design, tooling design, wall thicknesses, cycle time changes, and parison-control adjustments.

Plus, R&B's close proximity to Monroe Mold allows customers to easily make mold adjustments, or use Monroe Molds' custom mold manufacture services. "The R&B blow-molding machines and blow molds from Monroe Mold provide a combined product line distinct from any other OEM in the industry," notes Hodge.

Monroe Mold worked with Romanko Sales and Service Co. of Sycamore, OH—a company specializing in low-rise, non-residential construction for the mold manufacturing industry. This has been Monroe's sixth expansion, and the company has worked with Romanko each time.

Ghesquire believes this expansion will further cement Monroe Mold's blow mold niche with both existing and new customers. His formula for ensuring longevity? "Stay within your core competencies and continue to service your customer base well." **MMT**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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