



NEWS RELEASE

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THE PROTOMOLD COMPANY AGAIN RECEIVES NATIONAL AND LOCAL RECOGNITION FOR GROWTH

MINNEAPOLIS — Oct. 20, 2006 — *Inc.* magazine has, for the second consecutive year, named The Protomold Company to the Inc. 500, a listing of America's fastest-growing private companies. Protomold's rapid growth was also recognized in the Deloitte's 2006 Technology Fast 500 as the 129th fastest-growing technology company in North America, and in *The Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal's* 2006 Fast 50 announcements on Oct. 19 as the 11th fastest-growing private company in the Twin Cities. Protomold previously ranked first and fourth on the *Business Journal's* list in 2004 and 2005, respectively.

Protomold's three-year growth rate of approximately 500 percent was driven by the ability to deliver injection-molded plastic parts in as few as three days, and required the doubling of its U.S. manufacturing capacity over the past 18 months.

The company's expansion also included the opening of a European subsidiary in Telford, England to serve customers in the European Union. That operation surpassed first-year projections and recently won the prestigious 2006 Manufacturing Excellence award for *Integrated e-business* presented by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. This award is described by organizers as "the toughest industry award in which to succeed." Protomold also has recently incorporated a subsidiary in Japan to serve clients in that country and plans to start operations there in mid-2007.

Protomold CEO Brad Cleveland attributes the company's extraordinary growth, in large part, to increased market awareness of the company's capabilities. "In today's competitive markets, successful companies are bringing fully tested products to market faster than ever before," said

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Cleveland. “Traditional production methods can’t deliver functional prototypes in a timely, cost-effective way. By automating the process, we’ve eliminated much of the delay and cost of producing true injection molded parts, and the market has responded.”

Over the last year, Protomold also has increased the size and complexity of the parts its process can produce. Designers can submit 3D CAD models to Protomold’s online quoting engine and get back interactive quotes the next day. The automated system, ProtoQuote®, also analyzes submitted designs and offers suggestions for improved performance and moldability. ProtoQuote now incorporates ProtoView 3D, a feature that displays a three-dimensional view of the customer’s part with the suggested changes highlighted. A demonstration of ProtoQuote with ProtoView 3D is available on the Protomold Web site.

About The Protomold Company Inc.

The Protomold Company Inc. has radically changed the economics and lead times associated with prototype and low-volume production of injection molded parts. Its defined market segment, rapid injection molding, is positioned between rapid prototyping and conventional high volume injection molding. Protomold is privately held and headquartered in Maple Plain, Minn. Further information can be found online at www.protomold.com.

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