



ATEK Plastics
200 Holdsworth Drive
Kerrville, TX 78208

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Latiolais
Sales Coordinator
830-896-6464
jlatiolais@atekplastics.com

ATEK PLASTICS FINALIST FOR PROCESSOR OF YEAR AWARD

KERRVILLE, TEXAS— ATEK Plastics has been named a finalist for the 15th Annual Processor of Year Award by *Plastics News*. This prestigious award will be presented in March 2011 at the *Plastics News* Executive Forum in Las Vegas, Nevada. ATEK Plastics is a medical certified injection molder who predominately services the cardiac surgery, stem cell therapy and pre-surgical skin preparation markets.

Being a finalist for such a highly regarded industry award among all plastics processors in North America shows ATEK has overall operational and management excellence. All nominees for the award are evaluated on the following criteria: financial performance, quality, customer relations, employee relations, environmental performance, industry/public service and technological innovations.

ATEK, a first time finalist for Processor of Year Award, has also been nominated for two additional Excellence Awards by *Plastics News*. The Excellence Awards are given for exemplary performance in Customer Relations, Employee Relations and Industry/ Public Service. ATEK has been nominated for awards in two out of the three categories—Employee Relations and Industry/ Public Service.

“We believe building deep relationships with our employees, customers and vendors and striving for excellence by continuous improvement have been our key strengths and has placed us in the running for this award,” says Tom Houdeshell, President of ATEK Plastics.

ATEK has expanded rapidly over the past decade, from 2001 sales of \$4.7M to \$14M in 2010. The difference Houdeshell says “has been our increase of medical molding over the last decade”. ATEK shipped 49M parts in 2001 with 6.6% representing medical. In 2010 ATEK shipped 176M parts with 94% of their sales representing medical.

Under Houdeshell, ATEK Plastics began to improve manufacturing through methods like lean principles, decoupled molding, documented process control and automation. ATEK’s highly automated production floor and automated work cells are equipped with individual eDart system monitors and full servo robotics supported by product specific vision systems and box loaders.

With the adaptation of scientific molding and automation the company is able to run lean and efficient with stable processes and less man power. In 2010 ATEK was able to ship \$5.41 per every dollar of labor.

In mid 2010, ATEK agreed to be the first testing center for software joint development of RJG & IQMS. ATEK is now the first processor in the world to see process data flow from RJG eDart systems to IQMS real time process monitoring database.

High quality paired with on-time shipments (four years running) has helped ATEK score high in customer relations and land 6 new large Medical OEM customers in 2010.

Under environmental performance, ATEK has transitioned to more energy efficient lighting throughout their plant and saves power by turning off idler presses. Dumpsters of material are being picked up once a month from their facility to be recycled including metal, cardboard, purge and everyday waste including plastic materials and paper. ATEK is transitioning to a more efficient water system in 2011.

Aside from continuous improvement of business processes, ATEK values their employees and is also very active industry and community service. Employees are valued at ATEK, as they are one of the most crucial parts of the business equation. Different programs/benefits are in place for employees including awards/events, benefits, training, wellness & safety.

ATEK Plastics was nominated for Processor of Year Award by RJG & IQMS.

About ATEK Plastics

ATEK Plastics is a medical ISO certified precision injection molder that provides cost effective components on-time to companies demanding quality and expertise. Their state of the art facility houses a full service tool room, quality lab and a technology driven molding floor with portable clean room capabilities. Staffed with experienced engineering and management, ATEK can make your design a reality. No compromise, the A-Team will meet or exceed your requirements every time.

For more information on ATEK Plastics and ATEK Companies, visit www.atekplastics.com.

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