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For immediate release

**Proto Labs® presents LSR moulding service
at Med-Tech Innovation 2014**

Telford, UK. March 2014: Proto Labs, the fastest service for bespoke prototype and low-volume parts in the World, will present its new LSR (liquid silicone rubber) injection moulding service at Med-Tech Innovation 2014 (Ricoh Arena, Coventry, 2-3 April). LSR is an established engineering material that is particularly suitable for applications in the medical sector – it can withstand sterilisation and is biocompatible so works well for products requiring skin contact. With this new offering, Proto Labs brings a practical and cost effective way to get real LSR parts, really fast. Quantities from just 25 to more than 5,000 parts can be delivered in no more than three weeks and sometimes, depending on part complexity and of course when you need them, even shorter.

Available from the company's market-leading Protomold® service, obtaining LSR parts could not be easier. Through enhanced software capability carried out by our in-house software development team, the same super-compute clusters that power Protomold's thermoplastic quoting processes, power their rubber moulding quoting processes. Simply upload a 3D CAD model using Protomold's secure website to receive an interactive quote within one business day, accompanied by a geometrical analysis of the part and design-for-manufacture recommendations.

Although LSR moulding has similarities with conventional injection moulding techniques, it also has significant differences. For instance, unlike the thermoplastic material that is melted prior to injection moulding, LSR is a thermosetting, two-component mixture which is cooled before being injected into a heated mould and vulcanised to produce the final moulded part. After



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curing using a platinum catalyst, the moulded condition is permanent – it cannot be melted again as you could a thermoplastic part.

The result is that LSR is a material with excellent resistance to chemicals and electrical conductivity. In addition, parts made from LSR retain their physical properties when subjected to extreme temperatures making it a popular choice in many demanding applications.

Visitors to Stand 36 at Med-Tech Innovation 2014 will have the opportunity to see a demonstration of the Proto Labs online quoting systems, discuss ideas and project requirements with members of the Proto Labs team, discovering how to reduce the time and cost of product development – and get product to market faster.

In the meantime, to learn more about Proto Labs' new LSR capabilities, including additional design guidelines on draft, finishes and more, visit the Protomold LSR microsite at:

<http://www.protomold.co.uk/liquid-silicone-rubber>

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About Proto Labs®

Based in Shropshire in the UK, Proto Labs Limited has radically changed the economics and lead times associated with the production of prototype and low-volume parts for European manufacturers. Proto Labs' customers include companies from all sectors such as medical, aerospace, automotive and consumer electronics. With two service offerings: Firstcut® delivers machined parts (ideal for quantities of 1-10 parts) in over 30 production-intent materials including aluminium and brass while Protomold® delivers injection-moulded plastic parts (ideal for quantities of 10-10,000+) in just about any production-intent material. Using an 'ultra-fast' compute-cluster Proto Labs offers a web-based quoting system which includes a detailed manufacturability analysis and an accurate all-in production price in just hours **and** can ship orders in as little as one business day. For more information please visit www.protolabs.co.uk

About Protomold®

Protomold is the injection-moulding service offered by Proto Labs, Limited. Designers and engineers can submit a 3D CAD model of a part to the Protomold web-based quoting system, ProtoQuote®, and receive a detailed 3D model manufacturability analysis and an accurate all-in production price in hours rather than weeks. With ProtoQuote, customers can easily react to last-minute design changes, uploading as many iterations as they need to get the right model, material and cost. This in turn greatly reduces the time-to-market for a new product. In addition to all this, Protomold can deliver injection-moulded prototype and low-volume plastic parts manufactured from a choice of hundreds of production-intent materials in as little as one business day. For more information please visit www.protomold.co.uk

About Firstcut®

Firstcut is the machining service offered by Proto Labs, Limited. Designers and engineers can submit a 3D CAD model of a part to the Firstcut web-based quoting system, FirstQuote®, and receive a detailed 3D model manufacturability



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analysis and an accurate all-in production price in just hours rather than weeks. With FirstQuote, customers can easily react to last-minute design changes, uploading as many iterations as they need to get the right model, material and cost. This in turn greatly reduces the time-to-market for a new product. Firstcut allows customers to make a fully functional prototype much earlier in the development cycle from a range of over 30 production-intent materials such as ABS, Nylon, PEEK, aluminium or brass produced in as little as one business day. For more information please visit www.firstcut.eu/gb

For initial enquiries about Proto Labs/Firstcut/Protomold, please contact Richard Vaughan, European Marketing Manager at richard.vaughan@protolabs.co.uk (+44 (0) 1952 683031) or visit www.protolabs.co.uk

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