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## PRESS INFORMATION

### **Proto Labs Ltd Wins Queen's Award for Second Time!**

**Telford, Shropshire. April 22, 2013:** Shropshire-based Proto Labs Ltd. is the proud recipient of the 2013 Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade. This is the second time the company has been honoured with the award since its founding in 2005; the first just three years ago, in 2010.

Proto Labs has established itself as the world's fastest source for custom CNC machined and injection moulded parts delivered in as little as one business day. Since inception the company has invested unceasingly in both technology and people, building a world-class, innovative service to designers and engineers across Europe. As a result, Proto Labs' has enjoyed an impressive rate of year-on-year expansion.

"This Queen's Award recognises our outstanding performance in international trading," says Managing Director, Mr. John Tumelty. "Our investment strategy has over the years resulted in substantial growth both in terms of earnings and market share in a very competitive market. In fact, it's precisely *because* of this investment that our services are in such demand by designers and engineers across Europe who value highly, innovative processes that reduce product development times and costs without compromising on quality."

Proto Labs Ltd. is part of the globally successful Proto Labs Inc., based in Minnesota, USA. However, it is local expertise and engineering know-how that has made Proto Labs a success in Europe. "Whilst our European manufacturing operation is based solely in the UK," adds Mr Tumelty, "we have sales offices in the UK, Germany, France and Italy, which have helped us build successful working relationships with some of the biggest, most prestigious manufacturing



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companies across Europe, within the automotive, aerospace, medical and domestic appliances sectors amongst others.”

Each category of the annual Queen’s Award has a separate judging panel which makes a recommendation to the UK Prime Minister’s Advisory Committee. This committee then makes a final recommendation to HM The Queen, who decides the winners and invites representatives to attend a reception at Buckingham Palace.

Says Mr Tumelty, “Everyone at Proto Labs can be proud of the part they play in our success. It is their hard work that has made Proto Labs a manufacturing force capable of competing in the European market, making this second Queen’s Award possible.”

**END**

### **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](http://www.protolabs.co.uk)



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### **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](http://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 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](http://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](mailto:richard.vaughan@protolabs.co.uk) (+44 (0) 1952 683031) or visit [www.protolabs.co.uk](http://www.protolabs.co.uk)



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For all media enquiries, in the first instance please contact Matt Bailey,  
Managing Director, MBMC at [press@mbmc-uk.com](mailto:press@mbmc-uk.com) or call +44 (0) 1603 283  
601 [www.mbmc-uk.com](http://www.mbmc-uk.com)