



NEWS RELEASE

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THE PROTOMOLD COMPANY WINS 2004 TEKNE AWARD RECOGNIZING ADVANCED MANUFACTURING LEADERSHIP

Tekne Awards honor key leaders and innovators in Minnesota technology industries

MINNEAPOLIS — Nov. 11, 2004 — The Protomold Company Inc., pioneer of rapid injection molding, has been recognized for its leadership in advanced manufacturing with a 2004 Tekne Award — a program acknowledging technology innovations and leaders of Minnesota's technology businesses. Honored as this year's best Emerging Company in the Advanced Manufacturing category, Protomold received the award in a Nov. 9 ceremony held at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

"This is a great honor for our company, and we are privileged to be recognized by our peers in Minnesota as a leading innovator in our field," said Bradley Cleveland, president and CEO, The Protomold Company. "From the beginning, we've been committed to providing design engineers with the easiest, fastest and least-expensive method for bringing products to market. Winning this award substantiates the vision created by our founder Larry Lukis and implemented every day by our exceptional team of employees."

Sponsored by the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA), Minnesota Technology Inc. (MTI), Medical Alley, MNBIO and Minnesota Project Innovation, the Tekne Awards recognize technology innovators and leaders who have made lasting contributions to enhancing the quality of life and competitiveness of Minnesota.

"Earning a Tekne Award is a strong indicator of achievement and leadership in Minnesota's competitive technology sectors," said Dr. Wayne Pletcher, president and CEO, Minnesota Technology Inc. "We're very proud to honor homegrown successes like The Protomold Company, because its efforts help strengthen our industry, adding to the success of our business environment and our state's economy."

Applicable across a diverse range of industries, Protomold offers an innovative process known as rapid injection molding, which combines 3-D CAD technology and high-speed CNC

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machining to quickly manufacture injection-molded parts. The process can produce prototype and low-volume parts in a matter of days, allowing design engineers to validate the form, fit and functionality of their design with real parts at one-third the cost or lead time normally associated with conventional injection molding.

“Since we first started this program five years ago, it has grown to become a respected honor for our state’s technology innovators and leaders,” said Kate Rubin, president, Minnesota High Tech Association. “All of our 2004 Tekne Award recipients and finalists are living proof of the vital, thriving technology climate here in Minnesota.”

Tekne Awards are separated into categories that recognize both emerging and established companies representing the best and brightest in innovation, development, education, commercialization and management of technology in Minnesota. This year’s awards featured 51 finalists in 17 categories. A list of all recipients and finalists is available online at www.tekneawards.org.

About The Protomold Company

The Protomold Company 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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