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CONTENS

Customer report

STO: High-end injection moulding technology from the Ukraine

MASTHEAD

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Automatically

STO: High-end injection moulding technol

A plastics processing company with in-house mould construction and injection moulding shops, inter alia for medical technology, automotive and packaging items, which are produced in a highly automated manner, partly also using the IML process, as well as an in-house metalworking shop. A company with a high level of quality and processing, dynamic growth and comprehensive high-tech production. Its name: STO. Nothing unusual so far. The story becomes more interesting, however, when you know that STO is the abbreviation for Spetztekhosnastka Ltd. and that the company is based in Dneprodzerzhinsk in Eastern Ukraine.



Photos: STO

According to its own corporate slogan, STO produces "flawless quality" at "any level of complexity" and with "maximum punctuality". Following its beginnings as a casting mould manufacturer with rented machines and part-time workers in 1989, the company developed into an injection mould manufacturer in 1998 and integrated injection moulding production in 2002. In 2010, it was certified according to ISO 9001, ISO/TS 16949 and ISO 14001 and expanded its manufacturing capacity to include the production of technical

parts, before becoming the company with an excellent reputation worldwide that it is today.

Specialists for automotive and packaging

In addition to OEMs for Western and Eastern European automotive manufacturers, STO's customers include RAVIV ACS Ltd. from Israel, Sonoco Crellin from the US, D&M Premium Sound Solutions from Belgium, as well as Leopold KOSTAL

GmbH & Co KG and Robert Bosch GmbH from Germany. Two hundred further Ukrainian customers trust in the extensive STO expertise with regard to the production of thin-walled packaging articles, i.e. in a sector which requires a high level of well-founded expertise.

The co-operation between ARBURG and STO dates back to 2004. Several hydraulic ALLROUNDER S and electric ALLROUNDER A machines were complemented by six hybrid ALLROUNDER H, two ALLROUNDER GOLDEN EDITION mo-



good!

ogy from the Ukraine

STO relies on automated production for the production of thin-walled items (above) and frames for motor vehicle loudspeakers (centre).

dels, as well as a project system with an integrated vertical MULTILIFT V robotic system in 2010 and 2011. Thus, a total of 16 ARBURG machines, which operate around the clock 24/7, have been integrated in the production facility.

Automation is key

Of particular interest is the highly-automated ALLROUNDER 820 S with a

Owner Vladimir Lempert (right) and Operations Manager Stanislav Mienailo have ambitious goals which they intend to achieve with a high degree of dynamism in their company.



clamping force of 4,000 kN, a size 1,300 injection unit and a MULTILIFT V in cantilever design, which performs all the insertion and removal tasks. As a main contractor, ARBURG has assumed overall responsibility for implementation here. Loudspeaker housings made from PC/ABS with encapsulated metal connection pins are produced for VW. First, the pins are individually separated by hand and then, following visual inspection, inserted in pairs into four cassettes. These are picked up from a rotary table by the robotic system, which inserts them into the moving mould half. From here, the finished parts are removed via vacuum and set down on a conveyor belt system. During the encapsulation process, the MULTILIFT V fetches four new cassettes and waits for the mould to open again. Using integrated presence sensors, the four-cavity hot-runner mould, which is constructed in-house by STO and features pneumatic needle-type shut-off nozzles, checks that the individual cavities are occupied by the pin cassettes and that these are perfectly positioned.

Vladimir Lempert, founder and owner of STO, sees the technical equipment at his plant as having great potential for the future: "Currently, wage levels in the Ukraine are currently not so high, which means we can also still

produce many things manually. But the watchword for the future is certainly 'automation'. Here, it is customer demands that determine the moulds, machines, process, speed and degree of automation employed. For us, ARBURG is the right partner in this respect. Not only do we receive the appropriate injection moulding technology, but also professional training, reliable service, fast technical assistance and flexible financing packages. On our evaluation scale, it receives an excellent eight out of ten possible points."

INFOBOX

Founded: 1989 as a casting mould manufacturer

Corporate divisions: Packaging production with own brand name "Vital Plast", technical plastic parts for the medical technology and automotive sectors, mould construction and stamped parts production

Employees: 400, of which 120 at "Vital Plast" and 70 in mould construction

Contact: www.d-sto.com



Customised series production. Milestones of the ALLROUNDER principle:

Variety of working positions. Multi-component injection moulding. Modularity. Automation. VARIO principle. Displaceable injection unit. Vertical and rotary table ALLROUNDERS. SELOGICA machine control system. Today: Unique range of technologies. Highly modular. Customised to meet any production requirements. The ALLROUNDER: 50 years of innovation. To be continued...



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