

## **Metal Injection Moulding: The Malleability of Plastic, the Tenacity of Steel.**

### **Egide UK: Metal Injection Moulding Specialists.**

Egide UK is an internationally renowned specialist in Metal Injection Moulding (MIM) and the MIM Company of choice in the UK, fully accredited to ISO9001-2000. "We have been producing MIM components for over 9 years," said Egide's Sales & Marketing Manager Rachel Conway, "furthermore, our Senior Engineers have been involved in developing MIM for over 20 years".

MIM is a manufacturing process that involves manipulating metal or ceramic to behave like a plastic by mixing fine metal or ceramic powders with a polymer binder system to form a feedstock suitable for injection moulding net shaped precision metal or ceramic components. MIM enhances product quality, reduces lead times and gives rise to significant cost savings of anything up to 50%. The reduced costs that MIM is enabling companies to benefit from is also helping to retain manufacturing work within Europe that otherwise would have been exported to the Far East.

Metal Injection Moulding is Egide's core business, they are therefore fully equipped to enable them to keep every step of the process in house, all the way from the tool design and build, to the compounding of the feedstock, right through to the final sintered part. Egide's Total Quality Manager, Lawrence Reekie commented that this tight control at every stage "allows us to manage the consistency and dimensional repeatability of the parts we produce enabling us to supply parts of unrivalled quality".

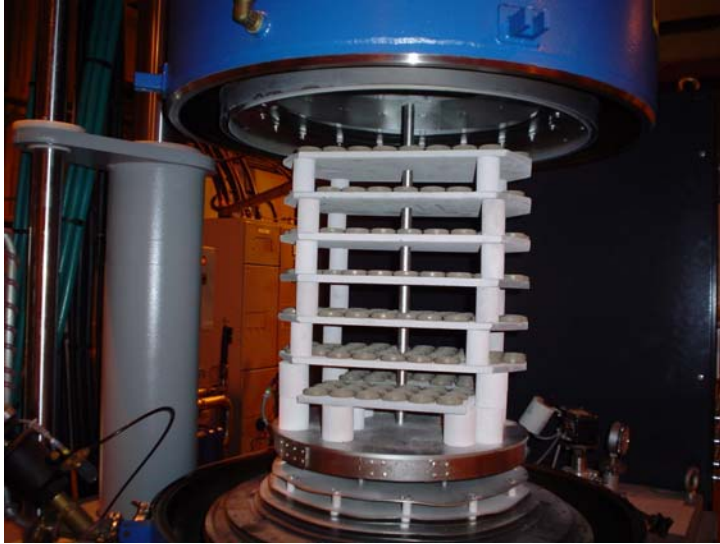


The image shown is an example of precision components produced at our facilities, for use within the medical industry. Despite the complex features the parts are as moulded and needed no further machining.

Over 25% of Egide's business is within the medical market, this increased substantially when recent guidelines released by NICE reinforced the need for hospitals to switch to single use instruments. The report states that instruments that come into contact with high-risk tissues, for example during neurosurgery, should, where possible, be replaced with single-use alternatives. To enable the easiest change from reusable to disposable, new products need to be high quality and match the geometry of existing instruments. Meeting this challenge is where Egide's MIM process is proving very successful, as we are now very prominent in the production of high quality single use laparoscopic components. We are already successfully supplying some of the UK's largest medical companies with parts for their single use solutions enabling them to achieve the quality and feel of re-usable parts at prices necessary to be competitive within the single use market.

Egide's experience in MIM and Total Quality focus has enabled them to become technical leaders in their field. This led to a 25% increase in business in 2007 and they have high hopes of a further growth of 40% in 2008. This expansion of the business has enabled Egide to invest heavily in new equipment. 6 Moulding Machines, 5 Debind Ovens and 4 Sintering

Furnaces now underpin their volume capacity. According to Egide's Managing Director, Chris Conway "Quality, design ingenuity and a close working relationship with our customers have always been fundamental to our businesses success and our high level of customer satisfaction. Our recent increase in capacity will enable us to further satisfy our customers as we are now able to provide shorter lead-times, which in turn will enable our customers to better meet their customer demands. For us, this is a significant achievement because, as a supplier, we regard ourselves as an extension of our customers business".



Parts inside one of our sintering furnaces, ready for the final stage of the process.

For more information visit us at stand 217 at MEDTEC UK 2008 or contact Rachel Conway at [rconway@egideuk.com](mailto:rconway@egideuk.com). [www.egideuk.com](http://www.egideuk.com).