

CAPABILITIES

Acme Manufacturing Company (Auburn Hills, Michigan) now offers "SimPRO" robotic offline programming for Acme polishing systems. This Fanuc Robotics-developed software provides simulation capability for robot paths. It includes reach study evaluation, efficient sizing of the robot, creation of part paths and editing of existing paths. Robot polishing applications can be validated in a virtual environment without the cost of an actual robot or interruption of the production cell. Each simulation package includes a cell model of the actual robotic polishing system for accurate new parts program development. Acme is Fanuc Robotics metal removal application integrator partner and participates as a Beta Site Tester for SimPRO, which allows for software enhancements in the robotic polishing area. SimPRO has also proven to be beneficial for robotic training and supporting service related issues.

DOT GmbH (Rostock, Germany) has increased its thermal spray equipment capacity by purchasing a Sulzer Vacuum Plasma System "MultiCoat", which will be ready for operation in December 2003. Additional staff members were employed for masking and operational tasks. The added capacity will allow DOT to expand its services for high precision titanium plasma spray coating.

Huron Tool (Farmingdale, New York) has added an additional multi-axis CNC cutter grinder to its complement of specialized equipment for the production of orthopaedic cutting tools.

Mark Machine (Fairfield, New Jersey) has recently added two, five-axis CNC vertical milling centers, an upgraded water-jet cutting system, and new, state-of-the-art laser marking equipment to support continued strong growth in its core instrument manufacturing business.

Paragon Medical, Inc. (Pierceton, Indiana) recently added two Daewoo 40/20 machining centers, two Fanuc Wire EDM machines, a star ETG drill grinder, and a Star PTG Broach Grinder. The additional equipment increases Paragon's capabilities and capacity in machined parts, cutting blocks, and reamers and broaches.

CERTIFICATIONS

Envision Manufacturing, Inc. (Morrisville, Pennsylvania) has received ISO 9001:2000 certification. The audit and certification were provided by TUV.

Paragon Medical, Inc. recently received 510(k) premarket notification for their Surgical Instrument Delivery Systems. The products are containment devices for medical device sterilization.

Huron Tool was recently re-certified to ISO 9001:2000 by Quality Assurance Systems, Inc.

COLLABORATIONS

Stealth Medical Technologies (Holt, Michigan) announced the acquisition of the Biomaterials Division of Astro Met Incorporated. According to Mike Miller, President of Stealth, *"With Astro Met we significantly increase our technological capabilities and expand the scope of services we currently offer the orthopedic community while further advancing our mission to become the best value alternative in sourcing net and near net shaped forgings and porous coated, machined and finished implant components."* **Jeffrey Anto**, formerly Manufacturing Manager for Astro Met will assume the newly created position of *Director of Coating and Finishing Division*. Coating, sintering and machining customers will continue to be serviced from facilities in Cincinnati, Ohio, Collierville, Tennessee and Olive Branch, Mississippi.

FACILITIES

MedSource Technologies (Minneapolis, Minnesota) broke ground for a new 30,000 sq. ft. metal forging facility on the grounds of MedSource's existing Houston, Pennsylvania plant. The company hopes to increase its scope of manufacturing processes to serve customers in the orthopaedic market. *"One of 11 MedSource facilities in the United States and Mexico, the Houston, Pa., facility has pioneered an automated "near-net shape" forging process that produces metal components used in implantable orthopedic devices, such as artificial hips and knees. The innovative process helps reduce machining time and costs by forging metal components very close to their final, usable shape."*

RECOGNITIONS

Mound Laser & Photonics Center (Miamisburg, Ohio) was awarded the State of Ohio *Thomas Edison Emerging Technology Award*. Presented to company President and CEO **Dr. Larry Dosser** by Governor Bob Taft, the award honors MLPC for the valuable progress it is making in the advancement of laser microfabrication technology. *"This award recognizes the innovation and dedication that MLPC personnel have put forth to bring laser-based microfabrication technology to the both the commercial and defense marketplaces. We view this as the beginning of creating a world-class laser microfabrication center in Dayton, Ohio"* states Dr. Dosser.

Spire Corporation (Bedford, Massachusetts) received a 2-year, \$.4MM grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop a new family of "smart" nanophase ceramic coatings to enhance bone integration and promote better device fixation of orthopaedic implants. *"Nanophase ceramic coatings applied to implants such as metallic knees and hips have been shown to increase bone cell growth. Although hydroxyapatite ceramic coatings are now widely used to encourage device fixation and stability, they can lead to undesirable soft tissue, as well as growth of desirable hard tissue. Spire's nanophase hydroxyapatite coatings are modified to selectively encourage hard tissue growth on implants while discouraging the formation of soft tissue growth that can result in non-optimal performance."*