



Speeding up growth in hot runners

Husky Injection Molding Systems (www.husky.ca) has drawn up plans to further build on the growth of its hot runner business in Asia, following the recent establishment of its hot runner plant in Singapore. Part of the expansion efforts is to start making a range of temperature control equipment at Shenzhen, China.

Its third production base in Asia, Husky's Singapore facility has been up and running since March 2007 and is part the company's strategy to stay close to its customer base.

"As the market grows, the requirement for speed is greater," says Dinesh Budapanahalli, Husky's hot runner and moulds general manager in Asia Pacific. "Reducing the lead time and getting it to the customer's door faster have become very important. Singapore is centrally located to serve both the South East Asian market and the growing Indian market. The strong intellectual property protection in Singapore is an added advantage."

The Singapore plant complements the other Husky manufacturing facilities in China.

Budapanahalli explains: "The Singapore facility has new machines installed and its technical capabilities are very much similar to our Shanghai facility. The capacity of the Singapore plant is a little bit lower than what we have in Shanghai but in terms of products and capabilities, we can meet all the needs here as in Shanghai. In Singapore, we can also manufacture extremely high-tolerance mould bases, which is one of our growth businesses."

With the focus being placed on consumer electronics, packaging, medical and other technical applications for its hot runner products, the setting up of the Singapore plant is expected to allow Husky to further penetrate into these markets. The company's growing presence in Japan for high end

Husky continues to build up its hot runner business to better serve the injection moulding market in Asia, with a newly established Singapore plant playing a key role in serving customers in South East Asia and India. *APN reports*

applications such as automotive and medical is another area that is showing great business potential.

At the K2007 fair last year, Husky launched several new products such as its Ultra 350 nozzle that will soon be produced in Singapore and Shanghai.

"The products that we launched at K are aimed at applications where the quality requirements are high, for example the Ultra 350 nozzle fits very well into the small and high cavitation mould needs of the high end

packaging market in South East Asia, India and China. This fits well into our strategy to push further in these markets," says Budapanahalli.

Due to the emerging global trend for thinner and lighter electronic products, Husky is offering high-pressure applications in its Ultra 500 platform, which is well suited for consumer electronics part manufacturing that require optimised injection moulding pressure and tighter pitch spacing.

Budapanahalli adds: "We also have the electrical plate actuation system for narrow pitch application in the consumer and medical markets through a clean electrical drive. All these new applications will be showcased in Chinaplas 2008 along with other new technologies."

In China, Husky has started production of temperature controllers at the Shenzhen facility. The product range is based on the Altanium hot runner process control systems that Husky has acquired as part of its purchase of Moldflow's manufacturing solutions division.

A key function of the Altanium controller helps to maintain the temperature of resins so that their properties do not change.

"While there are different software algorithms in the market to maintain the temperature, our temperature controllers have an innovative ART software algorithm which manages temperature fluctuations for better consistency in the production line," explains Budapanahalli. "Essentially, when moulding conditions change and temperature fluctuates, we are able to offer a technology based on the Altanium platform that provides temperature at set point for better part quality."

"The next focus for us is India," Budapanahalli adds. "The plans are being finalised."

