

# WHP ideally placed for medical drive

Since 1973 White Horse Plastics (WHP) has specialised in the development and production of tight tolerance technical injection mouldings and sub assemblies – all produced through lean manufacturing principles.

**T**hese competences served WHP very well in the competitive world of the automotive supply chain through the 1980s and 90s. This year, however, the company's successful winning of the ISO 13485 standard have put a new sectoral horizon in place. The same polymer processing expertise and production disciplines are now being made available to the med-tech sector.

Paul Bobby, WHP Factory Manager, says 'We sense that OEMs in med-tech, healthcare and pharmaceutical markets are becoming ever more sophisticated in their sourcing and purchasing criteria and are looking for the best partners and suppliers. WHP will aim to be first among their number.'

Located in the Vale of the White Horse in Stanford-in-the-Vale, the current WHP technical competencies include a fleet of over thirty injection moulding machines, CAD/CAM facilities, CNC optical measurement, CMM systems, insert loading and camera inspection, a fully equipped tool room and dedicated med-tech manufacturing space. A dedicated 'white room' area for med-tech related production has also been developed this year.

WHP material experience ranges from standard polymers, nylons, acetals, polycarbonates, ABS and TPEs etc, through to the more exotic engineering polymers.

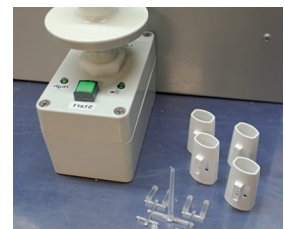
This blend of WHP technical and commercial expertise was combined to good effect in some recent work this year for leading med-tech supplier Clement Clarke International (CCI).

CCI has been a leading light in worldwide medical instrumentation since 1917. Based in Harlow, CCI is a regular exhibitor at the prestigious annual Medica exhibition in Düsseldorf (see pp18 this issue) and became part of the Haag-Streit group in 1989.

One of CCI's leading specialities is the design



Flo-Tone AS Training Device



HR Flo-Tone and reed activation testing

and production of inhaler training devices about which there have been many papers published, detailing the misuse of pMDI and DPI use among patients. Clement Clarke International have used their expertise to concentrate on this area of products, which has led to the introduction of the 'Inhaler Technique Training' range.

Each product is targeted at the training of inhalation technique, guiding patients to inhale at the correct/optimum flow rate for the device being used.

WHP, along with tooling partner Scott Tools Ltd, have assisted CCI with the product development and production of the intricate sounding whistles and reeds that need to be designed and very precisely moulded to sound at a specific air flow rate dependent on the device they are being used in.

'The CCI project certainly brought out the best in WHP' says Paul Bobby, Factory Manager. 'We love a challenge and this project demonstrates to us how our team-based thinking and the lean approach, developed over years working with demanding automotive suppliers, can provide substantial cross-over and benefit to medical clients.'

'The process begins with our experience in design-for-manufacture with a focus on cost-out which embraces all our skills - in polymer selection, testing and metrology, through to tool design and process optimisation, followed by product testing and validation.'

Bobby adds that WHP's ISO 13485 qualification now enables the company to pro-actively market these manufacturing skills to the worldwide medical-manufacturing supply chain.

In addition to ISO 13485, WHP also holds the universal quality management system ISO9001, the environmental standard ISO 14001 and the automotive quality standard TS 16949.

Colin Voller (Quality Manager) checking Flo-Tone reeds on OGP optical measuring machine

