



Real Parts. Really Fast.™

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Queen's Award Winner Proto Labs

to Make First Appearance at MACH, 2010

Stand 4661

Telford, UK. May, 2010: In June, Shropshire-based Proto Labs Ltd. will attend the UK's largest manufacturing technology show, MACH 2010 for the first time. Visitors to the biannual event will be able to meet and talk with the company's technical team - who will be on hand to demonstrate its automated, online quoting system - and most importantly learn how Proto Labs' services can dramatically reduce the time and cost of product development.

Proto Labs is the world's fastest source for producing functional CNC machined and injection-moulded prototypes and parts using actual production materials. Since the formation of Proto Labs, Ltd. only five years ago, operations in both the UK and across Europe have expanded dramatically as demand has increased for its First Cut and Protomold services.

Customers are now using First Cut to make fully functional prototypes earlier in the development cycle in low volumes (usually from 1 to 10) in production-intent materials, including an array of thermoplastic resins and aluminium which allows for initial form, fit and functional testing to take place. The next stage is to then use Protomold to order production-intent material prototypes and parts in volumes that would normally be prohibitively expensive using traditional injection-moulding processes. By using the services together, companies can use the same 3D CAD model from design concept to pre-production and make



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significant time and cost savings in the development of new products.

“Proto Labs helps companies to develop and launch new and improved products faster,” says Damian Hennessey, the company’s Commercial Manager. “Parts made by First Cut and Protomold provide designers and engineers with prototypes and short-run production quantities that embody the appearance and the mechanical properties of the final, full production version. Because none of the traditional additive RP processes can offer this, companies using our services in their product development stage have gained a huge lead over their competitors.”

And prototyping is not the only use for Proto Labs services. The speed of Protomold is perfect for emergency tooling needs. Imagine your production tooling becomes unusable, you can get a Protomold tool up and running in one business day while you wait for your main tool to be repaired or even replaced.

In recognition of investment in people and technology and subsequent outstanding success in European markets, Proto Labs was recently awarded a prestigious Queen’s Award for Enterprise in the International Trade category. Damian Hennessey adds, “This makes us all proud of what we have achieved in just five years.”

End

About Proto Labs, Limited

Based in Shropshire in the UK, Proto Labs has radically changed the economics and lead times associated with the production of prototype and low-volume parts for European manufacturers. Proto Labs’ customers include companies from all sectors such as medical, aerospace, automotive and domestic appliances. With two service offerings: First Cut® delivers machined



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parts (ideal for quantities of 1-10 parts) in over 25 production-intent materials including aluminium while Protomold® delivers injection-moulded plastic parts (ideal for quantities of 10-10,000) in hundreds of production-intent materials. Using a super-compute cluster Proto Labs offers a web-based quoting system which includes a detailed manufacturability analysis and an accurate all-in production price in just hours **and** can ship orders in one business day. For more information please visit www.protolabs.co.uk

About Protomold®

Protomold® is the injection-moulding service offered by Proto Labs, Limited. Designers and engineers can submit a 3D CAD model of a part to the Protomold web-based quoting system, ProtoQuote™, and receive a detailed 3D model manufacturability analysis and an accurate all-in production price in hours rather than weeks. With ProtoQuote®, customers can easily react to last-minute design changes, uploading as many iterations as they need to get the right model, material and cost. This in turn greatly reduces the time-to-market for a new product. In addition to all this, Protomold can deliver injection-moulded prototype and low-volume plastic parts manufactured from a choice of hundreds of production-intent materials in as little as one business day. For more information please visit www.protomold.co.uk

About First Cut®

First Cut® is the machining service offered by Proto Labs, Limited. Designers and engineers can submit a 3D CAD model of a part to the First Cut web-based quoting system, FirstQuote™, and receive a detailed 3D model manufacturability analysis and an accurate all-in production price in just hours rather than weeks. With FirstQuote®, customers can easily react to last-minute design changes, uploading as many iterations as they need to get the right



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model, material and cost. This in turn greatly reduces the time-to-market for a new product. First Cut allows customers to make a fully functional prototype much earlier in the development cycle from a range of over 25 production-intent materials such as ABS, Nylon, PEEK, and aluminium produced in as little as one business day.

For more information please visit www.firstcut.eu/gb

For initial enquiries about Proto Labs Limited/Protomold/First Cut, please contact Damian Hennessey, Commercial Manager at damian.hennessey@protolabs.co.uk +44 (0) 1952 607441. Alternatively visit www.protolabs.co.uk

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