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CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS LARGE-PART CAPABILITIES

There's large, and then there's larger. Better yet, largest. The descriptive certainly fits the 525 lb., 8 ft. x 14 ft. entry in the design competition of this year's Structural Plastics conference held in March in Vancouver (see News, p. 13). The part, a structural road mat molded by Loma Co. in Carencro, Louisiana, won the competition's Conference Award and Building and Construction Award. FGL Precision Works Ltd. (Concord, Ont.) built the aluminum tooling used to compression mold the parts from HDPE. The mats are connected and used by oil companies and others as temporary road beds over soft ground.



FGL Precision Works picked up two awards at the SPI Structural Plastics Division's design competition for making the mold for this 14 ft. x 8 ft. part, a structural road mat used as a temporary road bed.

Tom Meisels, FGL vice-president, says each half mold of aircraft aluminum measures 14 ft. in length by 8 ft. in width, and a complete set, or two halves, weighs about 10,000 lb. FGL built 24 sets of molds for Loma, which molds the part in a stack mold configuration on a custom-built vertical compression press. Each stack contains eight sets of tools. Loma looked internationally for a company to make tools for the road before selecting FGL, in part because few moldmakers wanted to take on the project.

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FGL acquires 1st company: KNT Precision

By Joseph Pryweller
PLASTICS NEWS STAFF

Toolmaker FGL Precision Industries Ltd. has acquired a maker of small-part injection molds, propelling the company into new markets.

The firm purchased KNT Precision Industries Ltd., a Brampton, Ontario-based maker of intricate molds for hand-held electronic devices and other products.

The acquisition is the first for FGL, based in Concord, Ontario. FGL's ownership shifted a year ago when one partner retired and other investors came on board, said co-owner and Vice President Tom Meisels.

Now, FGL plans to expand into other markets. See FGL, Page 43

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FGL purchases toolmaker KNT

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kets and possibly make future acquisitions, Meisels said.

"It has to be controlled growth that will complement our business," Meisels said. "But you must be aggressive. You either grow or die."

KNT operates an 11,000-square-foot plant in Brampton. The company, about 30 years old, had been owned by Werner and Gaby Thom, Meisels said.

They decided to retire and sold the business to FGL in October, he said.

KNT makes precision molds for electronic components and small automotive parts, such as buttons on vehicle windows and doors and dashboard components, Meisels said.

FGL, in contrast, makes compression, structural foam and injection molds for larger parts, including a variety of consumer

products.

The acquisition also gives FGL new equipment, including wire electric discharge machining centers.

The purchase boosts FGL's staff to 70, from 40 now. FGL also operates a 23,000-square-foot plant in Concord.

With the buy, FGL expects sales of C\$10 million to C\$15 million (US\$7 million to US\$10 million) this year, Meisels said.