

The multi-plastics player



If it is true that plastics are the material of the 21st century, Dedienne Multiplasturgy® Group is bound to play a leading role in this century. Founded in 1947, the French company specialises in the manufacture of technical and cosmetic parts from small to very large volume, essentially for the aerospace, automotive, electrical, electronic, defence, luxury, medical and telecommunications sectors. In the course of its history, Dedienne has consistently widened its portfolio and expanded its network to several factories across France and Romania.



High added value car display with twin shot moulded light box and decoration (painting and silk screen printing)

“We’re a leader in high-tech and high-performance polymer transformation,” says Jean Cantoni, Business Development Director. “As such, our activities cover machining, forming and thermoforming, injection moulding, coating and surface treatment and EMC products and shielding. Our current research and development focuses on the transformation of composite materials and high-performance polymers (HPP). As a specialist in thermoplastics, we benefit from the first Cage System® licence in France, a moulding procedure which heats the tool surface by induction. This license will help us develop new parts for the transport and aircraft industries.”

The company has come a long way since its creation by Roland Dedienne in 1947 as a specialist in machining precision engineering plastics. Twelve years on, the Group expanded its expertise when acquiring a factory specialising in technopolymers TP and TD injected parts. Throughout the 1990s, Dedienne complemented its activities in plastics processing with developments in orthopaedic and cardiovascular implants and also in the aeronautics sector. In June 2000, the Group re-organised its activities in three distinct areas: Dedienne Plastic, Dedienne Aerospace and Dedienne Health. Four years later, the plastic business unit was spun off

through an LBO and became Dedienne Plasturgie. Today renamed Dedienne Multiplasturgy®, the group ownership is split among management (25%), a private equity fund (65%) and CIC Region Expansion (10%).

The company pursues its unique multiplasturgy® concept, that is, it packages its various areas of expertise around engineering plastics and high-performance polymers to provide a one-stop shop. Dedienne is thus the French partner and distributor of DuPont for their range of Vespel® and as such offers to its customers various semi products or finished parts made of these ultra high performance polymers. As all stages from

prototyping to serial production take place in-house, Dedienne boasts a variety of high-speed machines ranging from 5 to 650 t in size. Operating in technology-driven market niches, the company has six sites across France, which specialise in different areas. Whilst its Paris and Normandy based plants focus on high-precision machining, moulding and coating of HPP (including LSR), Dedienne Automotive in Gétigné is in charge of injection moulding for high added value automotive applications. Dedienne Roumanie is the Group’s most recent subsidiary and it’s Eastern Europe manufacturing base. Quality management generally meets the ISO 9001 standard. Each

Metallised high performance polymers (moulded carbon PEEK); the company is one of the European leaders in transforming high-performance polymers



Stamped thermoplastic composite

unit furthermore has specific quality accreditations (EN 9100, ISO/TS 16949 etc.) depending on the market they serve.

The company participates in national and international research projects such as TOUPIE and RTM Structural for composites applications in the aerospace sector. As such, it explores innovative stamping techniques and composite technologies to eventually replace metal and achieve cost and weight reduction. Dediennie has its own engineering office and carries out in-house tests to examine to what extent plastic parts can be formed while still remaining functional. In production, too, the company manufactures its own tools and forms to be independent of suppliers and retain its know-how in-house.

With 320 permanent employees, Dediennie reported sales of 35.7 million EUR in 2007. For 2008, Mr. Cantoni expects revenues to reach 37.7 million EUR. "41% of sales are due to the automotive sector. We supply the T1 suppliers," he says. Aerospace

and defence contribute 20% to turnover. Amongst Dediennie's customers are Thales, Safran, and EADS. Research and development are ongoing, and Dediennie has detailed development and actions plan that will keep it busy for years to come.

The company, who was exhibiting at the last Fakuma fair, will be present at the JEC and the Paris Air Show this year. ■

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