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Rapid Overmolding from Proto Labs Advances Injection Molding Services

MAPLE PLAIN, MINN.—September 12, 2016—Proto Labs Inc. (NYSE: PRLB), a leading online and technology-enabled quick-turn manufacturer, has officially launched its overmolding service — expanding on the company’s rapid injection molding offerings. This new capability can produce 25 to 10,000+ custom overmolded parts in 15 days or less.

“This is a game-changer,” said Proto Labs CEO Vicki Holt. “Proto Labs is focused on accelerating product development, and the introduction of rapid overmolding gives designers and developers at the world’s largest companies one more tool to make high-quality prototype or low-volume production parts as quickly as possible.”

Product designers and engineers use overmolding to improve grip and durability, dampen vibration, and to add two-color aesthetics to parts. The process can also reduce manufacturing costs by simplifying multi-part assemblies. As the name implies, overmolded parts go through a multi-step process, which results in common products like tool handles, personal care products, medical devices and more. The speed at which these parts can be created with Proto Labs’ rapid injection molding services is unprecedented. Proto Labs’ overmolding process uses engineering-grade thermoplastics and liquid silicone rubber materials to create overmolded prototypes and end-use production parts.

“Proto Labs was able to deliver high-quality, overmolded parts in just 15 days from the time I placed the order. This turnaround time allowed me to validate my design — using production-grade materials — much sooner than ever before,” said Michael Ackner, a senior mechanical engineer at Smiths Medical and early Proto Labs overmolding customer.

Proto Labs will be at the International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS) in Chicago, September 12-17. Visit booth #N-72 to learn more about the company’s new overmolding capabilities and other rapid manufacturing processes.

For more information on overmolding at Proto Labs, including design guidelines and material options, visit [protolabs.com/injection-molding/overmolding](https://www.protolabs.com/injection-molding/overmolding).

About Proto Labs

Proto Labs is the world's fastest digital manufacturing source for custom prototypes and low-volume production parts. The technology-enabled company uses advanced 3D printing, CNC machining and injection molding technologies to produce parts within days. The result is an unprecedented speed-to-market value for designers and engineers and an on-demand resource throughout a product's life cycle. Visit [protolabs.com](https://www.protolabs.com) for more information.