



You think it, we can make it...



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**Thogus Launches Rapid Prototype Division:  
*rapid prototype + manufacturing (rp+m) creates 3D thermoplastic parts without the  
need for expensive tooling***

AVON LAKE, OH – Thogus, an innovative plastic injection molder in its sixth decade, announces the official launch of its rapid prototype + manufacturing (rp+m) division (visit [www.partswithouttooling.com](http://www.partswithouttooling.com)). The rp+m division is specifically responsible for working with customers needing fast, three-dimensional prototypes and functional production parts in just a few days. This ability eliminates costly tooling that traditionally slows down the ideation process, testing period and production.

“We are thrilled to offer established entrepreneurs as well as the person tinkering in the garage the chance to transform their designs from ideas on paper to working prototypes,” stated Matt Hlavin, president of Thogus. Before rapid prototyping was available, dreams often died due to the expense of tooling needed in manufacturing. “Our rp+m division quickly and efficiently adds the engineering and injection molding expertise needed to assure each project is successful.”

In 2009, Thogus invested in several of Stratasys’ Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM) machines, the only rapid prototyping equipment that uses thermoplastic materials to build 3-dimensional, durable pieces. To view a short video on how parts are created from a computer aid design (CAD) file, click [here](http://www.partswithouttooling.com/technology-additive.shtml) (<http://www.partswithouttooling.com/technology-additive.shtml>). Parts made from FDM machines are created through additive manufacturing – built layer upon layer – giving the advantage of creating functional, usable parts. The rapid parts simulate real production pieces in size, shape and functionality. Thogus was the first

in North America to install Stratasys' Vapor Smoothing Station, a semi-automated process of smoothing the FDM pieces, creating the same clean, aesthetic finish which was only previously obtained via injection molding. Thogus' rapid product development services have been highly praised by world renowned, Terry Wohlers, additive manufacturing's industry expert (<http://wohlersassociates.com/blog/2010/02/fresh-thinking-at-thogus-products/>). Wohlers also featured Thogus during "The Future of Additive Manufacturing" conference at EuroMold 2009.

Thogus' **rp+m** division has experience in industries such as food and beverage, healthcare, consumer, electrical and industrial. One unique trend is using the economically created parts for end-of-arm-tooling for robotic machines and factory automation. This utilization eliminates another expense for the standard production runs. **rp+m** is comprised of a core group of engineers (biomedical, industrial and mechanical), product development specialists and plastic experts who understand that speed to market and quality is critical. The newly launched website, [www.partswithouttooling.com](http://www.partswithouttooling.com), showcases examples of completed work.

### **About Thogus**

Thogus is a custom plastic injection molder bridging the gap between traditional manufacturing and innovative technologies. Now in its sixth decade, the family-owned business led by President Matt Hlavin, has five divisions: Engineering & Design, rp+m (rapid prototype + manufacturing), Contract Manufacturing, Radiation Protection Technologies and Tube & Hose Fittings. Thogus employs 72 people and has 27 presses ranging from 25 to 720 tons. The 76,000-square-foot facility is in Avon Lake, Ohio, is RoHS compliant and is ISO9001: 2008 certified. Thogus is a member of MAPP (Manufacturers Association for Plastic Processors) where Matt Hlavin is the current association president. Thogus has received a Manny Award from Cleveland's *Inside Business* and has also been selected as an Emerging Honoree by *Smart Business*' Evolution of Manufacturing award. Most recently Thogus was recognized in the 2010 Top WorkPlaces program. Visit [www.thogus.com](http://www.thogus.com) for additional information.

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