



MGB PRESS RELEASE

## Investment and innovation key to success for UK manufacturing

**The UK economy may still be struggling and consumer confidence may be waning, but the manufacturing industry continues to play a vital role in leading UK's economic recovery. Conor Sugrue, General Manager at UK's largest wheeled bin manufacturer MGB Plastics, discusses why continued investment and innovation in manufacturing processes such as injection moulding is crucial to the immediate and long-term success of the UK manufacturing industry despite the economic imbalances we currently face.**

Despite the gloom and doom headlines that we see today, manufacturing in the UK is still very much alive. Maybe the output levels and employment may have changed drastically over the last few decades, but the UK still continues to lead the way globally in innovation, specialised technical skills and knowledge base.

As we emerge from a slowing economy combined with factors such as the continued growth and threat of the emerging economies of countries such as China and India, there is no doubt that there remain plenty of hurdles for the UK's manufacturing sectors. However, where there are challenges, there are also huge opportunities. And those companies who adapt to these will be the ones who will benefit both in the short and long-term while helping to lead the UK recovery.

As is so often the case, continued growth and competitiveness is the result of a willingness to embrace and adapt to change. Small process changes will be good for the immediate term but to make a real impact and to stay competitive long-term, it requires wholesale and wholehearted changes from business.

At MGB Plastics, we have taken a holistic approach to our supply chain and how to adapt the market conditions to our customer needs. Injection moulding is one such example. Its importance to UK manufacturing cannot be understated. Highly skilled, advanced manufacturing such as injection moulding is very important to the UK as it provides employment to skilled technicians in the UK, grows the UK economy as well as providing business to local suppliers. A moulded component can be made in a single operation and because of this the marketplace is very competitive, and the reason why the UK injection moulding industry has come under strong pressure, particularly from Eastern Europe and China.

At MGB Plastics, we took the approach of being diverse and adaptable to be able to compete with the threat of overseas competition. We undertook a review of our core injection moulding processes and to respond and adapt to meet the needs of our customers we had to invest in machinery that would allow us to manufacture efficiently.

Sustaining investment in modern machining is very important to MGB as it gives us the most advanced, modern, energy-efficient machines which allows us offer our customers the most competitive prices, highest quality and best customer service.



This approach to injection moulding has allowed MGB Plastics to capture more market share and improve our production levels drastically. An example is our factory in Rotherham - a unique facility in injection moulding in the UK. MGB now has the most extensive selection of large tonnage injection moulding machines in the UK with the capacity to manufacture 1.5 million wheeled bins per annum. We recently added a 2350T Husky injection moulding machine to the portfolio making MGB Plastics the largest manufacturer of wheeled bins in the UK. We now have five large tonnage machines ranging from 2000T to 2700T as well as three smaller machines of 1000T.

Since MGB was purchased by One51 plc in September 2008, it has invested over £3m in the site since acquisition - mainly in machines and tools. MGB has expanded rapidly in the last 18 months and is now the UK's leading manufacturer of wheeled bins. In 2009, MGB supplied over one million wheeled bins to local authorities throughout the UK.

The ongoing success of MGB Plastics and UK manufacturing lies in continue to adapt to customer needs and increasing our manufacturing capabilities. We continue to examine opportunities to expand our range are already looking at a number of capital expenditure projects for 2011 and beyond. Investing in processes such as injection moulding and machinery is crucial to this success.

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**Editor's Notes.**

Operating from a modern manufacturing facility in Rotherham, MGB Plastics has the capacity to manufacture in excess of 1 million wheeled bins per annum. In addition to manufacturing wheeled bins and kitchen caddies, we also have a dedicated "in-house" distribution team that have been responsible for the delivery of in excess of 4 million wheeled bins to households throughout the UK.

MGB Plastics Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of One51 plc. For further information on One51 plc, please visit the website at [www.one51.com](http://www.one51.com)

