



Molder Action Network new downlink site for SPI's Plastics Learning Network

STRONGSVILLE, Ohio, U.S.A., April 3, 2002 – Van Dorn Demag's Molder Action Network facility is one of the newest downlink sites for the Society of the Plastics Industry's Plastics Learning NetworkSM satellite training courses.

"It's in our best interest to support the Plastics Learning Network's efforts to increase training and skills of the plastics industry. A knowledgeable customer benefits all of us in the long run," explained Al Tolliver, director of the Molder Action Network.

Since 1999, the Plastics Learning Network (PLN) of The Society of the Plastics Industry Inc. (SPI) has broadcast training to more than 700 plastics production workers to prepare them for National Certification in Plastics (NCP) processing. SPI then arranges with NetCertification Inc. to provide the Internet-based exam at a location of the company's choice.

Classes are conducted in real time and interactive, enabling students to ask questions of the instructors during the class. The seven-week certification courses from qualified instructors are presented in two-hour sessions to allow students to attend with minimal disruption of work schedules.

The courses deal with machine operation and control in various types of plastics processing, including injection molding and extrusion. Courses may also cover other issues affecting the industry, such as OSHA's recent initiative regarding amputations in the workplace.

The Molder Action Network's PLN/NCP site is one of the few that is not part of a community or technical college. Its customer training facilities can accommodate up to 28 "students" in a modern, Internet-ready classroom with full downlink and broadcast capabilities.

The PLN is conducted through SPI's partnership with South Carolina Educational TV and the Polymers Center of Excellence. Instruction is also provided by Paulson Training Programs.

The Plastics Learning Network partners with state and local Workforce Investment Boards, economic development and other agencies for partial to full funding of the training and exam.

The fall 2002 courses begin in mid September. For more information about the SPI's Plastics Learning Network, visit www.plasticslearning.org or contact Barbara Darby: 864-239-2939 ext. 4 or bdarby@socplas.org.

Headquartered in Strongsville, Ohio, U.S.A., Van Dorn Demag Corporation manufactures and supplies injection molding machinery including the Van Dorn Caliber, Spectra, HT, IntElect, Newbury, and Cadence Series machines, which range from 28 to 4,400 tons. Van Dorn Demag is a member of Mannesmann Plastic Machinery, the world's largest supplier of injection molding machines. For more information on Van Dorn Demag, visit www.vandorndemag.com. For more information on the company's Molder Action Network, visit www.molderactionnetwork.com.

