

AUTOMATED MEASURING SYSTEMS SPEED PRODUCTION AND REDUCE COSTS



Tessy Plastics (www.tessy.com, Elbridge NY) is a plastic injection molder that produces a mix of products for medical and consumer companies. Tessy initially relied on CMMs and optical comparators to measure molded parts to keep processes in spec. Not only was this slow, it was labor intensive. In addition, the industry trend was toward part miniaturization. Tessy needed to automate their measurement processes to speed things up, reduce labor costs, and to measure new parts too small to measure on a comparator.

As a solution, Tessy implemented ten SmartScope® video metrology systems from Optical Gaging Products (OGP®) to supplement their installed base of comparators and CMMs. As explained by Mark Towers, Director of Quality Assurance, "We use CMMs for many dimensional measurements, and SmartScope systems when parts are too flexible for touch probing, or when the parts are simply too small to probe." Parts are mounted on custom fixtures and measured in batches on SmartScope systems. Automated measurement routines free the operator to perform other tasks.

Injection molding is a continuous process with batches of parts being formed while others are measured. When the molding process drifts out of tolerance, many "bad" parts may be produced before the problem is detected. Tessy monitors its processes by sending all SmartScope measurement results to QC-Calc™ software for graphical statistical monitoring. QC-Calc presentation of SmartScope measurements allows Tessy engineers to adjust processes before out-of-tolerance parts are produced. Accurate, speedy SmartScope measurements allow Tessy to maintain quality with lower labor costs.



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