

Advances in hearing aids

Netherlands-based company Ex-Silent claims its new hearing aid (pictured right) is the first which allows users to change between four different programmes by tapping on the ear.

The Qleaf measures 14mm x 6.6mm x 5mm and comes with so-called "AirTAP functionality". It has a disposable soft tip, moulded by Helmbrechts in a hypoallergenic grade of TPE. This modular concept eliminates the need for taking ear impressions, says ExSilent.

The relatively complex moulding includes a profile grip area, sealing domes and integrated ear-wax collection, preventing wax from damaging the receiver loud-speaker. Yet the TPE tip can be easily removed for cleaning or replacement.



Helmbrechts also moulds the polycarbonate housing, mounted within the TPE tip itself, enclosing the battery, flexible circuitry, receiver, chip and microphone. The 14mm long, 7mm high PC housing represented a challenge in mould filling. This was resolved at Helmbrechts by flow path optimisation with use of flow aids and air vents.



Available in blue, black and silver colours, the housing of the ClikStar insulin pen is now also moulded by Gerresheimer in a grade of polycarbonate from Bayer MaterialScience

Gerresheimer starts production of ClikStar insulin pen

Medical plastics moulder Gerresheimer announced at the Interpack 2011 fair that it has started producing the ClikStar reusable insulin pen for pharmaceutical producer Sanofi-Aventis.

The black, silver or blue pen housing and cap are moulded in a grade of Makrolon polycarbonate from Bayer MaterialScience. Sanofi-Aventis says ClikStar has a high-grade ergonomic design; the pen sits easily in the hand and can be used by patients with limited finger mobility.

The insulin cartridge clicks into the pen's calibrated, transparent plastic sleeve, which incor-

porates a half-turn twist-off thread holding the polycarbonate housing. The cartridge is supported by a glass fibre reinforced plastic threaded rod within the housing.

Other plastic parts in the insulin pen include inner and outer needle protection caps, a dosing adjustment ring and a protective film for the needle.

The final pen design was developed at the Gerresheimer Plastics Division technology centre in Wackersdorf, but part moulding and assembly under clean room conditions takes place at Gerresheimer's plant in Pfreimd.

Phillips Plastics enters Europe through Medisize

US-based Phillips Plastics has entered the European medical plastics market by buying Medisize, which does clean room injection moulding at factories in Finland, the Netherlands, Ireland, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

All of Phillips Plastics' 14 existing plants are in Wisconsin, the US.

Phillips Plastics paid about €99.8m to buy Medisize, which is based in Vantaa, Finland, from Swedish private equity

conglomerate Ratos.

A news release from Phillips Plastics said the acquisition creates a company with combined sales of just under \$500m (€354m) and makes Phillips "one of the medical industry's largest and most complete global providers of outsourced medical design and manufacturing services".

Publicly traded Ratos reports that Medisize 2010 sales totalled €127.8m and its operating profit was €12.6m.

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