

NPE Recap

Four Athena products made their public debut at NPE 2015:

- XFORM 300 preform molding machine with 72-cavity mold
- A300 with stack mold carrier, integrated servo valve gates, and high-speed injection
- A150 with integrated servo unscrewing and closing
- Rotary table integrated into 300-ton moving platen

Visitor reaction was overwhelmingly positive, with praise for the technical innovations incorporated. Most customers expressed the need for a new North American manufacturer to match their companies' lean structures and declared their interest in future cooperation.

Selected feedback:

“The rotary table and stack mold are impressive. We need to find the right project to start working with you.”

(Lead processing technician, custom medical and packaging molder)

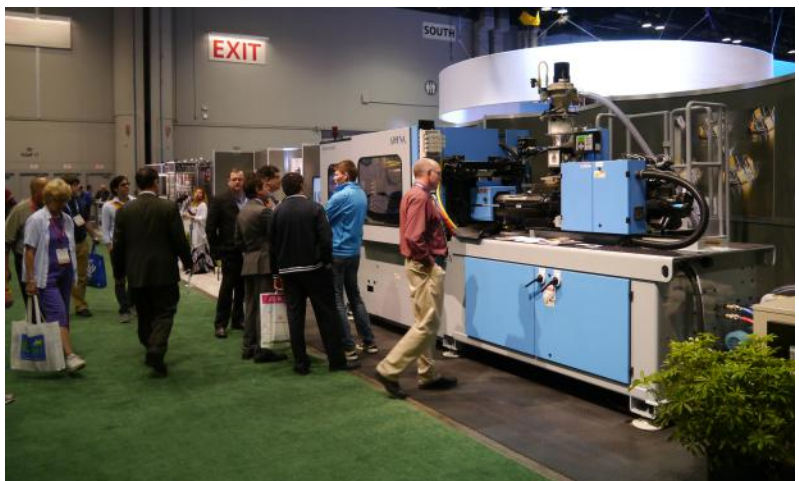
“Seeing the machines first hand is awesome. You guys have a real product. Let's get together again.”

(Engineering Manager, large custom molder)

“[Our traditional supplier's machines] are very reliable but not of the design caliber and scale I see in your machine. This looks like it'll last. You need to get back in and give us an update.” (VP Operations, packaging molder)



A300 with flip-top vial stack mold at NPE



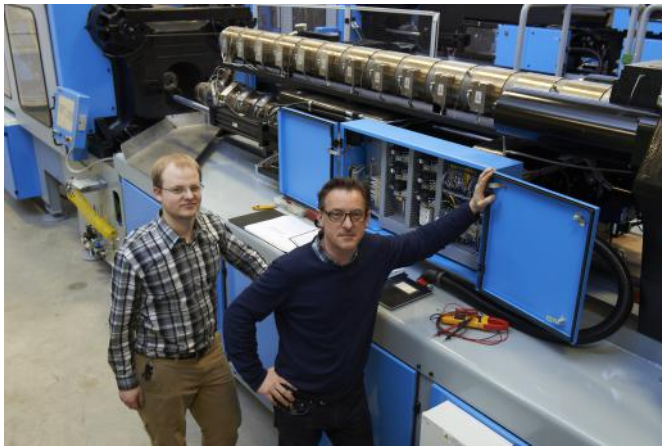
A150 with dual-servo flip-top closure mold at NPE

Organizational Changes in 2015

As we prepare for the opening of our new Systems Center:

- Eleven people have started in new positions at Athena
- More openings are active on our website's careers page, www.athenaautomation.com/careers

To improve the priorities and efficiency of development projects, Jim Overbeeke took over as Vice-President of Sales and Engineering. Engineering operations, focusing on design and improved practices, remain COO Harold Luttmann's responsibility.



Assembly of distributed controls – injection cabinet



Assembly of post-mold automation component

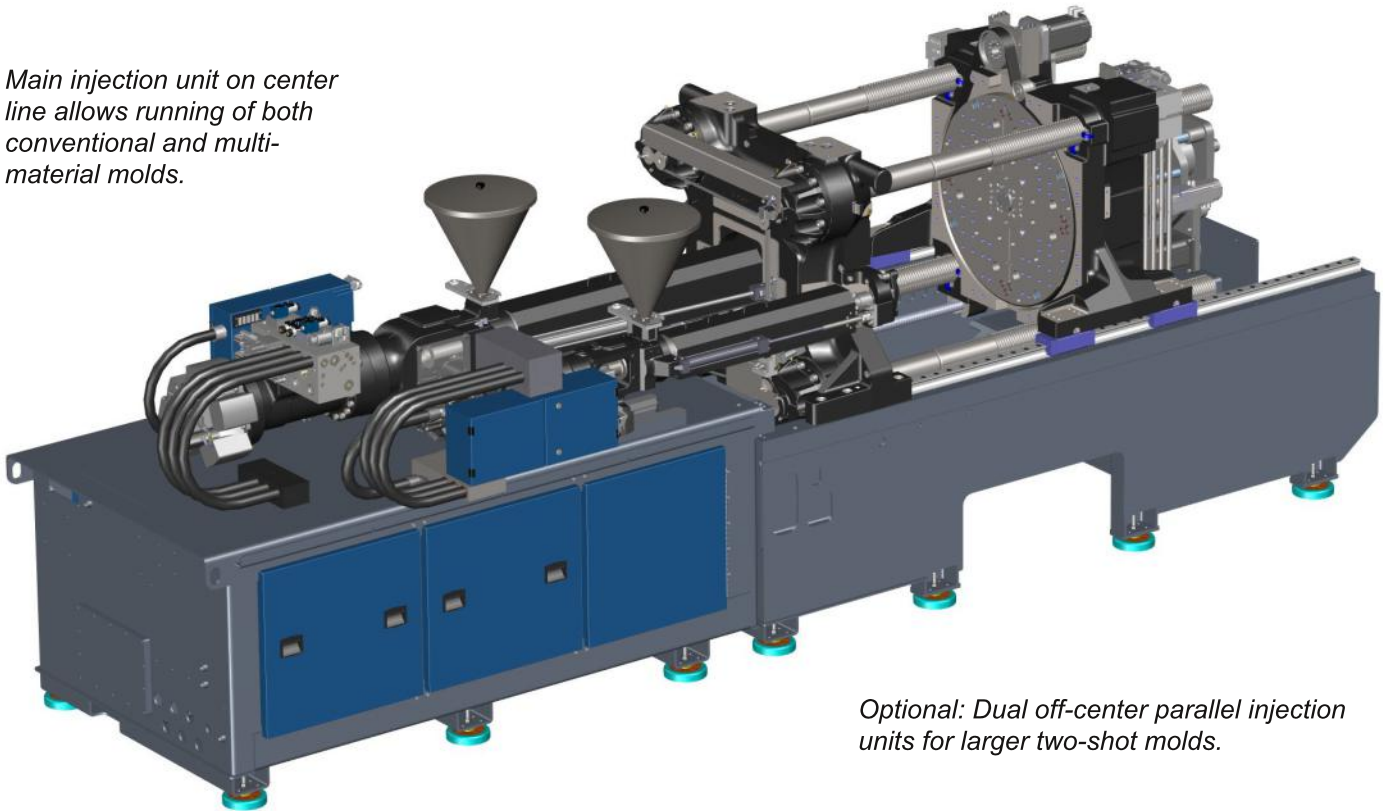
Multi-Material Developments

Athena has developed a number of modular multi-material molding concepts for rotary table, stack mold, cube, and in-mold assembly systems. These designs are simple and easy to operate and maintain – for example by being able to swivel the injection units for screw removal.

Mounting injection units parallel to the machine axis allows for integration of additional top- or side-mounted third-party injection units, which can include full control through the machine's HMI.

Stationary platen mounted – for rotary table molds

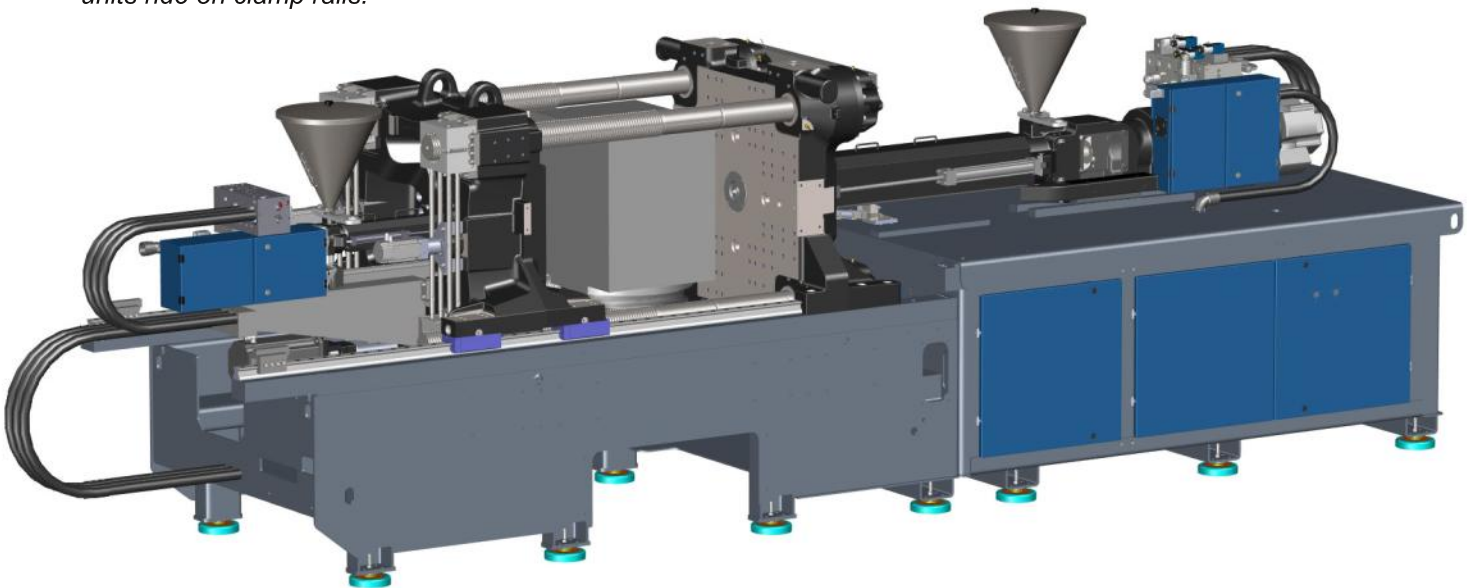
Main injection unit on center line allows running of both conventional and multi-material molds.



Optional: Dual off-center parallel injection units for larger two-shot molds.

Moving platen mounted – for cube molds

Smaller injection units may be mounted directly on the moving platen. Larger units ride on clamp rails.



Systems Center – Update

The Systems Center is on schedule for opening in the first quarter of 2016, allowing:

- Shipping of more customized machines.
- Global sourcing for just-in-time assembly.
- Assembly of higher-tonnage machines.
- Showcase LIGHTSOUT™ plant engineering services.

Work is underway on the building's HVAC, electrical, resin handling, process water, and automation systems. The air handling system will condition outside air by using geothermal energy to cover 80% of the building's thermal load.

The main hall's floor with radiant heating/cooling is scheduled for completion late summer. The floor will receive a dustproof, highly abrasion- and impact-resistant polished finish.



The 150 m (492 ft) long main hall; two 50-ton cranes will span its width and travel the entire length.

Contact

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