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Proto Labs Receives the Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are the UK's most prestigious awards for business performance and recognise and reward outstanding achievement by UK companies

Maple Plain, Minn., April 26, 2010—Proto Labs, Inc. (www.protolabs.com), the global leader in quick-turn CNC machining and injection molding announced today that the Shropshire, England based Proto Labs Ltd. has been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade. Proto Labs is headquartered in the United States, and has manufacturing operations in the US, England, and Japan.

"We are absolutely delighted to receive the Queen's Award for Enterprise," says Proto Labs Ltd. managing director, Mr. John Tumelty. "This is richly-deserved recognition for the hard work and the dedication of our teams based in the UK, and in our local branch offices in Europe."

Proto Labs has achieved outstanding commercial success with sustainable year-on-year growth. The company's innovative services are used by product designers and product development teams who need prototype or low-volume plastic parts delivered quickly and cost effectively.

"For a company working on a new or updated product, time-to-market is critical," says Mr. Tumelty. "To test and develop a product to the point where it is ready for manufacturing means making working prototypes. The longer this process takes, the higher the development cost and the more likely a competitor will launch their product first. Our services allow design and development engineers, even those with very little or no experience of metal-cutting or plastic injection molding, to order and receive precise, high-quality parts more simply and faster than ever before."

Proto Labs offers two quick-turn services: First Cut (www.firstcut.com) CNC machining and Protomold (www.protomold.com) injection molding, both capable of providing parts in as fast as one business day. Design Engineers who use Proto Labs for prototypes and short-run production can upload a CAD file at any one of Proto Labs online sites, get a quote and place an order for Proto Labs services directly online.

"In just a few years Proto Labs in Europe has helped thousands of companies," says Mr. Tumelty. "Receiving this coveted Queen's Award makes us all very proud of what we have achieved in such a short period of time."

About Proto Labs

Proto Labs has radically changed the economics and lead times associated with low-volume production of CNC machined and injection molded parts through the use of proprietary software running on a compute cluster at over 2 trillion floating point operations per second. Proto Labs offers two services in North America, Europe and Japan: First Cut provides CNC machining and Protomold, rapid injection molding; both of which can ship parts in as little as one business day. For more information, visit: www.protolabs.com.