

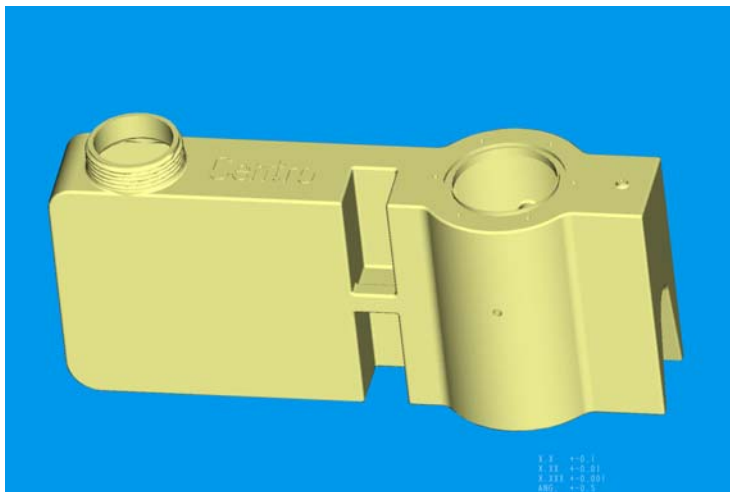
## Centro Imports 'RAP' for Market Niche

North Liberty, IA (July 23, 2004) Centro Incorporated, the largest custom rotational molder in North America is bringing a high tech process to their main manufacturing facility and corporate headquarters in North Liberty, Iowa. This technology, known as Rotomolded Anionic Polymerization (RAP) will provide a more cost effective means to rotationally mold Nylon 6 products. The multi-million dollar investment will be fully operational by January 2005.

“Nylon 6 products have been around for a long time. But the raw materials used to produce them today are quite expensive” says Jim Lewis, Director of New Product Development. “The RAP process combines lower cost raw materials with a faster production process, thereby creating a product that is much less expensive than steel.”

In the RAP process, liquid Caprolactam containing catalyst and activator are combined in an aluminum mold. The mold is continuously rotated in an oven, and an ensuing chemical reaction turns the raw materials into Nylon 6.

“This is much faster than the current practice of having to melt powdered nylon resin,” says Dr. Alvin Spence, Director of Research and Development. “With RAP, we are creating Nylon in the mold through chemical reaction. Additionally, we obtain greater design flexibility with liquids than we do with powder.”



Centro’s investment includes a new custom rotational molding machine, a robot for dispensing of raw materials, a new chemical laboratory for quality testing and assurance, extensive training, and a plant-wide reorganization to make room for the equipment. “We believe that this is a great opportunity to advance technology, create jobs and fill a much needed market niche in North America,” says Centro President, Brian Olesen. “We have partnered with some exceptional companies both in Europe and the U.S. to bring this technology to North America and we have been overwhelmed with the initial interest in the technology from the marketplace.” Olesen added. “RAP parts can be painted to a ‘Class A’ surface finish, are stable at higher temperatures and have good fuel permeation barrier properties.”

“Although RAP has been around in Europe for a number of years, largely as a method to produce motorcycle fuel tanks, we have designed the manufacturing system from a clean sheet,” according to Spence. “We felt that the existing systems lacked appropriate safety

measures and we also saw opportunities to improve machine productivity through design.”

Centro, Inc. was awarded a \$132,000 forgivable loan from the Iowa Department of Economic Development to help fund the project that will create an additional 26 jobs in North Liberty.

Centro, Inc. has been one of the technology leaders in custom engineered rotational molding for 34 years. Centro, Inc. operates five manufacturing facilities located throughout the Midwest and Southeastern United States employing over 650 associates. Centro, Inc. has been awarded industry honors for their product by the Society of Plastic Engineers (SPE) and the Association of Rotational Molders (ARM). For more information on Centro, Inc. please visit [www.centroinc.com](http://www.centroinc.com) or call Kent Shepherd, Director of Sales and Marketing, at 319-626-3200.