

## **Dana Molded Products taps geothermal energy at new \$8 million headquarters**

By Rhoda Miel | PLASTICS NEWS STAFF

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CARPENTERSVILLE, ILL. (Dec. 20, 12:30 p.m. ET) -- Dana Molded Products Inc. has consolidated corporate headquarters for two business units and launched injection molding all under one very green roof.

The new 86,000-square-foot home of DMP and corporate headquarters for Dana Plastic Container Corp. in Carpentersville, Ill., was built to tap into the natural energy source available from geothermal energy, allowing the company to cut production and energy costs, said President David Hidding in a Dec. 20 telephone interview.

"When we were planning it, we tried to look at things we could do that would save money in the long run," he said.

The \$8 million facility opened Dec. 5. It replaces a DMP site in Arlington Heights, Ill. Blow molder Dana Plastic Container retains its molding facility in Roselle, Ill., even as its corporate operations move to Carpentersville. The 5.7-acre site has enough space to expand and DMP has already sketched out plans to add up to 27,000-square-feet to the building in the future.

The new plant is located over a geological aquifer, and DMP decided to take advantage of that for the building's infrastructure.

The water below ground is a constant 52 degrees, and geothermal wells use a heat transfer system to either heat or cool the water, which means that DMP can eliminate the traditional water cooling system.

"The problem, typically, is one that it costs a fair amount of money to do this," Hidding said. "As a businessman, you look at what the payback is and how long it will take."

In designing the building, DMP was able to eliminate a 200-ton process chiller and cooling system. It estimates that will eliminate 120 tons of air conditioning and reduce water evaporation by 85 percent and reduce energy consumption by 1.2 million kilowatt hours annually.

Full savings will become clear during full production in the heat of mid-summer, but Hidding noted that as a privately-held company, Dana Molded Products has the ability to take a longer term view of business than a public firm that must answer to shareholders. DMP will also benefit from improved work flow in the new building, he said.