

# Plastics News

## PROCESSOR OF THE YEAR 2020



Comar has more than 1,000 employees and more than 1 million square feet of manufacturing and distribution space, plus another 400,000 square feet that it acquired in 2020.  
Comar LLC photo

Plastics News Report

**C**omar, Diversified Plastics Inc., MMI Engineered Solutions Inc. and Plastek Industries Inc. have been selected as finalists for the *Plastics News* 2020 Processor of the Year award.

Three of the companies — DPI, MMI and Plastek — are repeat finalists. Erie, Pa.-based Plastek was a finalist for the 2017 and 2018 award, while Brooklyn Park, Minn.-based DPI and Saline, Mich.-based MMI were finalists for the trophy in 2019. Comar, which is based in Voorhees, N.J., is a first-time finalist.

All four companies are injection molders but have other plastics operations as well. Comar also does blow molding, DPI has a large rapid prototyping business, and both MMI and Plastek have big tooling operations.

Processor of the Year candidates are judged on seven criteria: financial performance, quality, customer relations, employee relations, environmental performance, industry/public service and technological innovation. Judges are members of the *Plastics News* editorial staff.

“These finalists have impressive stories to tell, especially considering their performance in the pandemic year,” *Plastics News* Editor Don Loepp said. “They all stayed open and kept their employees safe, and pitched in to make essential products needed in the fight against COVID-19, including diagnostic consumables, face shields and ventilator components.”

The 2019 winner was Intertech Plastics Inc., a custom and medical injection molder in Denver.

Here’s a description of each finalist, in alphabetical order:

### Fast-expanding Comar

Comar was clearly the fastest-growing Processor of the Year final-

ist in 2020 and probably one of the most rapidly expanding plastics companies in the world.

Comar was founded in 1949, and it is principally owned by Morgan Stanley Capital Partners. The company has more than 1,000 employees and more than 1 million square feet of manufacturing and distribution space, plus another 400,000 square feet that it acquired in 2020.

In January 2020, the company grew its medical device molding business via acquisition through the purchase of iMARK Molding Inc., a 70-employee company in Woodville, Wis. The iMARK business is ISO13485-certified and has ISO Class 7 and Class 8 clean rooms. Its 130,000-square-foot facility has more than 30 injection presses. Customers include makers of medical diagnostic and surgical devices.

In February, Comar announced it is building a 230,000-square-foot custom facility in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. That plant will house injection and injection stretch blow molding and injection molding cells, and it will replace existing Comar plants in Rancho Cucamonga

and Garden Grove, Calif.

In June, the company announced that it is building a 159,000-square-foot injection molding and assembly plant in Vineland, N.J. That expansion is scheduled to be completed by March 2021 and will include increased space for injection molding, assembly and finishing operations, warehouse and storage space, more dedicated product cells and an improved quality lab.

Finally, in November, the company announced that it is moving into a 160,000-square-foot facility in West Bend, Wis. The leased facility will triple Comar’s local footprint and will eventually house more than \$7 million of capital investment in high-tonnage injection molding machines, large cavitation molds and press side automation. The plant will help meet skyrocketing demand for rigid containers for disinfecting wipes used to battle COVID-19.

The *Plastics News* judges were also impressed with Comar’s financial, customer and quality performance. Comar is led by CEO Michael Ruggieri.

### ABOUT THE AWARD

The winning Processor of the Year will be announced at the *Plastics News* Executive Forum, scheduled for March 16-18. The event will be held virtually because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The winners of the three *PN* Excellence awards will also be named at the event. Those

awards honor processors that excel in one of three Processor of the Year criteria: customer relations, employee relations and industry/public service.

Award finalists can be a company or an operating division — public or private — that has been engaged in plastics

processing in North America for at least five years. Previous winners are not eligible.

The 2020 Processor of the Year will be the 26th company to earn the trophy. *Plastics News* has named a winner each year since 1996, and there was a tie for the top honor in 2002.