MOLDTECH CUSTOMER...

A world leader in mechanical pipe joining systems was launching a complete line of "push-to-connect" copper pipe fittings for potable water distribution systems.

CASE **STUDY** – Rubber Seal Manufacturing

CHALLENGE

A current supplier was unable to meet the customer's aggressive launch production schedule. In addition, Moldtech's validation testing showed inconsistent seal performance. Although still in its early launch stages, the customer was eager to begin working on cost reduction strategies. From a financial standpoint, the sub-production could soon hold up the return on millions of investment.

MOLDTECH™ SOLUTION

After studying the existing tooling we made modifications to adapt to our in-house equipment. We were able to create test parts within a day. Our cross-functional evaluation team determined priorities – based on cost, potential benefit, and timing – to move forward with more profitable production.

Testing of the molded samples allowed correlation of the lab data to the production environment and defined effective tolerance values on the key process parameters.

EVALUATION

Data was analyzed on a continuous basis. We provided the customer with documentation for each shipment showing that key process parameters were controlled tight enough to exceed the 1.33 Cpk requirement.

CONCLUSION

We were able to make a number of quick modifications to the tooling in order to meet the immediate short-term production requirements. A longer-term proposal was prepared using a unique family-mold concept that would provide tighter process control and reduce the seal cost as much as 75%.

Savings were made possible through faster cycles, adjusted cavitation, optimization of material use and elimination of the need for multiple change overs.

The customer was able to aggressively launch the new project with controlled part consistency and promptorder filling.

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