

**New York State
Environmental Investment Program (EIP)
Capital Project Summary**

AccuMED Innovative Technologies

Project Background

AccuMED Innovative Technologies was established in 1994 as a small cut and sew operation in Buffalo, NY. AccuMED invented a patented material, Breathe-O-Prene® (BOP®), as a response to a customer skin irritation complaint. The BOP® is an extremely unique material comprised of open cell Polyurethane foam, flame laminated with highly stretchable or recoverable fabrics. AccuMED manufactures the BOP® for use in the footwear and protective padding industries and includes customers such as New Balance, Nike, Adidas and 3M. AccuMED was experiencing a significant volume of waste due to an old lamination system and reached out to ESD for assistance.

Project Description

AccuMED had researched and documented the various causes of the scrap caused by the existing lamination system, which essentially utilizes heat to adhere two components (foam and fabric) into one product. By documenting the scrap generation, AccuMED was able to work with the manufacturer of the flame lamination system to engineer this scrap out of the manufacturing process in a new automated Continuous Flame Lamination System.

AccuMED identified a total of 20,625 yard/year (approximately 25 tpy) of scrap generated from the old system due to poor controls. Additionally, AccuMED estimated the elimination of approximately 30,000 pieces of “cut room” finished goods that were scrapped yearly due to the lamination process. The new lamination system was also expected to result in additional revenue due to the larger capacity. Total economic benefit from the scrap reduction and increased capacity was estimated at \$2.56 million.

Project Results

The installation of the new Continuous Flame Lamination System proved successful. After a startup and training period, the new machine operated four months without producing any scrap. The cut room scrap was reduced from 30,000 pieces to 7,220 and has yielded the expected savings of over \$500,000 in material costs; however, AccuMED is still in negotiations with new accounts to fill the new increased capacity. Total annual economic benefit to the company has been documented at over \$2.2 million.

Contractor: Erie County IDA
County: Erie County
ESD Region: Western Region
ESD Contact: 518/292-5340

NYS EIP Investment: \$250,000
Contractor Match: \$611,020
Total: \$861,020
Completion Date: December, 2007