

Tray-Pak Offers Rapid Prototyping

READING, PA — Concepts for new custom thermoformed packaging can now be quickly rendered in 3-D by Tray-Pak Corp.'s new stereo lithography capabilities. The prototyping service transforms 3-D drawings into physical models by transferring the drawings to a bath of liquid photocurable polymers or epoxy using laser light.

"This rapid prototype machine, which is operated in our research and development group, provides Tray-Pak with flexibility in building small- to medium-size parts and models directly from our 3-D drawings," says Randy Simcox, vice-president. He adds: "This technology is a benefit because now we can facilitate a sampling of packaging products and support the trial of actual product concepts through our sister company, TPSource."

According to the company, the new service enables prototypes to be produced in hours, rather than days required using traditional techniques.