



GRAHAM ENGINEERING

Press Release

York, Pennsylvania, USA

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**GRAHAM ENGINEERING CORPORATION, CONAIR ENTER INTO RECIPROCAL EQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENT AGREEMENT FOCUSED ON EXTRUSION OF MEDICAL TUBING**



*American Kuhne 12mm  
micro modular extruder*

As part of ongoing collaboration in extrusion process development, Graham Engineering Corporation and The Conair Group have agreed on an exchange of equipment that will be used in each company's extrusion laboratory for development and innovation of medical tubing.

Graham will provide a 1-inch American Kuhne ULTRA CR extruder with AKcess touchscreen to Conair's laboratory in Pinconning, MI. Conair will supply its latest MedVac™ vacuum sizing/cooling tank, a MedLine® puller-cutter, and a MedLine take-away conveyor to be installed in the new, dedicated medical laboratory in Graham's 150,000 square foot (14,000 square meter) headquarters and factory in York, PA.

"Conair and American Kuhne have a long history of partnering on extrusion applications, not only on equipment, but also on expertise in process optimization, which is vital to the development and testing work taking place in our new medical laboratory in York," stated Steve Maxson, Graham's Director of Global Business Development – Medical. "Conair has been on the forefront of efforts to solve complex medical extrusion challenges such as non-contact and contact vacuum-sizing techniques for small bore medical tubing and cutter blade and bushing designs to effectively cut low durometer, difficult-to-feed small bore tubing." Maxson said the new medical laboratory will be working on developments including next-generation medical solutions for bioresorbable tubing for stent scaffolds, multi-layer structures for minimally invasive devices and for the delivery of drugs, gradient tubing, and continued development of the company's proprietary automatic die-centering technology.

In Conair's Michigan process-development center, the new American Kuhne extruder will expand the complement of production-scale extrusion equipment installed, said Bob Bessemer, Sales Manager, Medical Downstream Extrusion. "This new extruder will expand our capabilities. It is specially equipped to allow us to process FEP (fluorinated ethylene propylene), which is increasingly being used in tubing for critical medical applications." The extruder can also handle high-temperature materials like PEEK (polyether ether ketone) and other medical grade thermoplastics including polyamides and polyurethane.

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*MedLine® puller-cutter*

GRAHAM ENGINEERING CORPORATION • 1203 EDEN ROAD • YORK, PENNSYLVANIA USA 17402  
+1 717.848.3755 • FAX +1 717.846.1931 • [www.grahamengineering.com](http://www.grahamengineering.com)

