

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
REQUEST FOR COVERAGE**

April 20, 2018

Contact: Lisa Twarog or Michelle Abdo

413-787-1133

[ltwarog@marketmentors.com](mailto:ltwarog@marketmentors.com)



**Meredith-Springfield Associates, Inc., is first North American blow molder  
to acquire latest ISBM technology from Japan's Aoki Technical Laboratory, Inc.**

*The AL-500LL-50S is the newest model of an injection stretch-blow molding machine (ISBM)  
that Meredith-Springfield will use to produce a new line of premium plastic drinkware*

**LUDLOW, Mass.** – [Meredith-Springfield](#) became the first North American company to purchase the latest iteration of an injection stretch-blow molding machine (ISBM) from Japan's [Aoki Technical Laboratory, Inc.](#), which will enable Meredith-Springfield to economically produce a new product line of premium PET drinkware.

The AL-500LL-50S cuts molding cycle times by as much as 45 percent and production volume is either maintained or it more than doubles on a yearly basis, depending on the size of the container. The machine is also more energy efficient, saves space and reduces equipment and production costs through downsizing of the unit.

The drinkware that Meredith-Springfield will produce is for premium, single-serve use at hotels, conventions, outdoor and poolside venues, anywhere premium cocktails and beverages are served but where using glass poses a safety hazard. The line includes stemless wine and Champagne glasses, carafes, pilsner glasses and other uniquely shaped cocktail glasses.

"This is a game-changing moment for Meredith-Springfield as the acquisition of the AL-500LL-50S creates economic, energy, equipment and production efficiencies for us as we produce a new product line," said Mel O'Leary, Meredith-Springfield President and Chief Executive Officer. "It is differentiating technology."

Eiji Nishizawa, President of Aoki Laboratory America, Inc., added: "Our high-speed mold release technology enables the molding of a bottle at a cycle that is faster than previous versions of our machines while delivering the same quality." Nishizawa explained that his company utilizes molding technologies that enable the production of plastic containers with minimum expenditure of energy, including Direct Heatcon<sup>®</sup>, an original single-stage, three-station system that represents the ultimate in energy-saving molding technology.

"We depend on the Earth for our existence, so at Aoki, we commit ourselves to the protection of our natural environment and the advancement of international culture that makes use of plastic containers," Nishizawa said.

Aoki will be exhibiting Meredith-Springfield's sister machine at the National Plastics Exhibition in Orlando, Florida, in May. At the Aoki booth, attendees will see live demonstrations of a 200 mL, 24gram PET bottle having a 20MM neck finish and cycling 6 cavities at an unprecedented 8.5-second cycle. Existing technology achieves a 19.1-second cycle on the same bottle currently so the production is more than doubled.

Meredith-Springfield will exclusively produce PET articles with its machine. However, it is equipped to run almost any polymer which can be blow molded such as HDPE, PP or Tritan<sup>®</sup>. For some of the drinkware, Meredith-Springfield will use its patent-pending, proprietary post-molding lip forming process to create a glass-like bead rim on the top openings.

O'Leary said less tooling costs associated with the AL-500LL-50S, "allows for a price point that will enable customers with lower volumes or smaller tooling budgets to enjoy the benefits of one-step stretch blow molding previously achievable only with a major tooling expenditure."

**About Meredith-Springfield Associates, Inc.**

*An SQF-certified plastic extrusion and injection stretch blow molding manufacturing and engineering company in Ludlow, Mass., Meredith-Springfield has built a reputation for providing superior, high-quality finished products and a hassle-free experience to companies across the globe. The company's core competencies include project management of extrusion blow molded articles from concept through commercialization, and creating process solutions to enable optimal manufacturing of the most difficult articles. Meredith-Springfield offers the latest technology for molding PET and other resins to the existing client base and can take advantage of other global opportunities. Clients include American Distilling Inc., B&G Foods, Inc., Clorox, Elizabeth Arden, Jarden Home Brands, OmniMax, PepsiCo, and Reebok. These are just a few of the companies who in the past, or at present, enjoy partnerships with Meredith-Springfield. Resin capabilities include HDPE, PP, PVC, PA, PET, EPET, TPE, TPU, ABS, LDPE and Fluoropolymers. Serving the medical, packaging, industrial, HBA, and food industries, Meredith-Springfield consistently demonstrates its capabilities in world-class product design and manufacturing and deepens its national and international relationships. Meredith-Springfield is also a consistent referral for companies of all sizes who need test-market quantities of custom blow molded prototype samples for research and development (R&D) and for "out-of-the box" concept development. For more information, please visit [meredithspringfield.com](http://meredithspringfield.com).*

**About Aoki Technical Laboratory, Inc.**

*Founded in 1976 by Mr. Katashi Aoki, and based in Nagano, Japan, Aoki Technical Laboratory plans, develops, manufactures and sells injection stretch-blow molding machines, molds, auxiliary equipment and parts for molding plastic bottles. The company has offices and representatives in Chicago, Brazil, Mexico, Germany, Singapore, Shanghai and Guangdong, China, Thailand, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The company was the first to produce One-Step ISBM technology and it has sold 3,600 of its current machine platforms to users worldwide. Aoki has 350 employees globally supporting sales, machine installations and service. For more information, please visit [aokitech.co.jp/english/offices](http://aokitech.co.jp/english/offices).*

###