



ESTES DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING, INC.

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For Immediate Release

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ESTES EXPRESS PROTOTYPING—FAST TURNAROUNDS FROM DEDICATED SHOP

Indianapolis, Ind., June 25, 2008 — Estes Design and Manufacturing has announced the creation of *estes express prototyping*—an in-house shop dedicated to rapid prototyping. The addition of new machines and programming software, exclusively for prototypes and short-run production, will enable the company to greatly accelerate its customers' product development cycles.

“We’ve combined a team of talented designers and fabricators, who have extensive sheet metal experience, with an impressive lineup of state-of-the-art machinery and software,” says Ron Estes, vice president of operations. “The result is an operation that quickly and efficiently responds to the varied needs of the markets we serve.”

Prototypes, product development and small-lot production work normally must compete with regular production jobs for available capacity, making quick turnaround challenging. *estes express prototyping* overcomes this problem by creating a dedicated shop with speed as the primary focus to address those time-critical projects. *estes express prototyping* can:

- manage the complete design and development process
- rapidly produce and refine prototypes from customers' existing designs
- optimize designs for manufacturability and assembly
- value engineer products to ensure cost-effective manufacturing
- transition products into full production
- provide cost-effective, short-run manufacturing for 10- to 25-piece quantities.

New equipment includes:

- The **PRIMA[®] Laser Cutter/Welder** features both 2D and 3D cutting, in addition to 3D laser welding. Laser welding is faster than traditional welding and produces a higher quality product with little or no finishing required.
- The **TRUMPF[®] TruBend 3120 Press Brake**
- The **Salvagnini[®] PERformER Panel Bender**
- **Computes Inc. software** unifies the equipment for final prototype creation. Drawings for a formed part are unfolded electronically. The software then programs the cutting on the laser and the forming on the press brake.

Estes Design and Manufacturing is one of the leading full-service precision sheet metal fabricators in the Midwest. For over 30 years, this family owned and operated company has delivered rapid response manufacturing, from conceptual design, to prototypes, to full production. Estes serves a broad range of products and industry applications, including medical equipment, appliance, renewable energy, HVAC and office furniture manufacturing.