

# Industrial Evolution

Creating a diverse economy in the Berkshires



Photos by Caroline Bonniwell / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Cindy Bromback of Pittsfield assembles a plastic piece for use in the medical field and places it into the vision system (screen at right), which inspects the piece and makes sure none of the components are missing at Hi-Tech Mold & Tool in Pittsfield.

## Molding the shape of an industry

### Plastics trade enjoys an economic rebound

By Tony Dobrowolski  
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD

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It's been a Berkshire County industry since the late 19th century, and has seen its share of ups and downs.

But there are signs that the plastics industry in the Berkshires may be on the rise again.

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GE Plastics, which maintains its world plastics headquarters in Pittsfield, has always influenced the Berkshires plastics industry, former network members say.

"I think one of the biggest advantages we've had is having GE Plastics here," said William Kristensen Sr., president of Hi-Tech Mold & Tool on Technology Drive in Pittsfield. "When I first started my company in 1983, they came to me with material for a rearview mirror."



Javier Cotto inspects protective lenses for Otis Elevator at Hi-Tech Mold & Tool.

Hi-Tech Mold & Tool, which manufactures products for the medical industry, recently signed a contract with a firm in the aerospace industry to produce a plastic water collector for F-16 fighter planes, Kristensen said.

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