

# Franklin's Tegra Medical wins award

By Ashley Studley/Daily News staff

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FRANKLIN - Business expansion in a weak economy is no easy task but for Tegra Medical, growth has been achieved despite the odds.

Tegra Medical, a medical device component manufacturer specializing in wires and tubing used in surgery, was named the gold winner for the southeastern region of the state by MassEcon for its commitment to facility expansion, job growth, investment and community involvement.

The honor was made as part of the sixth annual Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Awards. MassEcon is a nonprofit dedicated to economic growth.

"We're thrilled, we've expanded and we've gone leaps and bounds," company President Bob Roche said. "We're just excited we're doing a good job and being recognized for it."

Last February, New England Precision Grinding of Holliston and Accu-Met Laser of Cranston, R.I., joined forces to become Tegra Medical at 9 Forge Parkway in Franklin, an 81,000-square-foot facility that is more than double the size of the companies' previous space.

With a second, 57,000-square-foot, facility in Dartmouth, the company currently employs 280 people, 205 in Franklin and 75 in Dartmouth, and has committed to hiring 20 new people a year for the next five years.

"The employees are happy to be here (in Franklin), and they have a lot more resources than they did in Holliston and Cranston," he said.

The company makes devices that close an artery after surgical procedures as well as

tools for rotator cuff and spinal surgeries, medical wires that have neurological applications in the head area and needles used in surgeries and breast biopsies.

Tegra continues to invest in capital equipment, purchasing new laser and grinding machinery annually. It also donated to the town's Fourth of July celebration last summer.



*Bob Roche, president and CEO of Tegra Medical, holds the incision end of a breast biopsy needle on his finger to demonstrate its size.*

With customers like Smith & Nephew Endoscopy in Mansfield and Medtronic, a nationwide medical technology company, Tegra made \$40 million in revenue this year.

The company was nominated for the award in September by Brian Taberner, town director of planning and community development.

"They've invested a lot, and the jobs in the area will continue to increase for the next few years," Taberner said. "I think it's great that (Tegra) chose (Franklin), and the impact they have on the local economy as well as the state's is really significant."

Roche spoke on behalf of Tegra in front of judges and competitors at UMass-Boston on Sept. 15. He had only a minute to pitch the company in front of 100 people.



Bob Roche, president and CEO of Tegra Medical, talks about his company's success.

"It was a pretty unique experience," he said, adding "it was nice to hear about the positive (business) going on (in other companies)."

MassEcon announced the winners on Oct. 5. Other southeastern winners include silver

winner Konarka Technologies in New Bedford, and bronze winner Elite Envelopes & Graphics Inc. in Randolph.

"I'm pleased and honored to accept the award on behalf of all the wonderful people we have here at Tegra Medical," said Roche. "It's really gratifying to be nominated by the town of Franklin, and to be selected as a gold winner in the south region of the state."

Gov. Deval Patrick is scheduled to deliver the keynote speech at the Nov. 24 awards reception at the Seaport Hotel in Boston.

"I'm very proud of the fact that the manufacturing company in Franklin continues to attract manufacturing jobs and grow very well in what's advertised to be a tough economy," Roche said. "We have a good situation in the town of Franklin, and a good relationship with the town. We encourage any local people looking for jobs to come apply with us."

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