

Werewolf Coblation System by Smith+Nephew

The Challenge

When it comes to arthroscopic surgery, the *Werewolf Coblation System* by *Smith & Nephew* has become a key tool in helping patients and saving lives. With five operating modes to address different types of soft tissue, and ambient real-time temperature monitoring, the *Werewolf* is not only safer than mechanical debridement of the knee, on all soft tissue types, but also delivers faster patient recovery times, and better long-term outcomes.

For years, **Graphiccast** has produced parts for the pump in this essential medical device. As *Smith and Nephew* collected feedback from their customers over the years, they developed an upgrade that they knew would accelerate market conversion to their system. As with any market driven need, *Smith and Nephew* wanted the new system yesterday!

Graphiccast is accustomed to working with many medical product manufacturers, such as this one. Medical devices are something that **Graphiccast** specializes in, since our process makes a perfect fit for that industry. As **Graphiccast** was already the manufacturer for five of the parts in the *Werewolf Coblation System's* pump assembly, we got to work on finding a solution.



The Graphiccast Solution

The first step toward changing the manufacturing process is developing an in-depth understanding of what, exactly, the customer needs. To launch the process, an engineer from **Smith & Nephew** visited **Graphiccast**, and we took some time to sit down, listen, and review the design concept. After thorough discussions regarding what needed to be changed, we worked together to forge a path ahead, and over the next few months, **Graphiccast** brought complete transparency to the manufacturing process, allowing everyone at **Smith & Nephew** to scrutinize, analyze, and – when necessary – assist in redesigning the parts. By working together, we also worked toward maximum efficiency, and maximum results.

Once everything was outlined and reviewed, **Graphiccast** surged into production. Thanks to the unique advantages of graphite mold production, **Graphiccast** was able to rapidly produce a short run of the parts, which could immediately be run through a stringent validation process. **Smith & Nephew** then had the opportunity to assemble these parts, test them, and prove that the design changes had been effective.

Thorough planning, thorough reviewing, and open communication led to success. The parts were cleared for production. At this point, scheduling was a key concern, since **Smith & Nephew** anticipated increased demand. To make it happen, **Graphiccast** worked part production orders into a tight schedule, delivering the necessary parts in a quick turnaround.



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The Results

The success of this project speaks for itself. *Smith & Nephew* were extremely satisfied with the results, putting **Graphiccast** up for a supplier award. In the time since, the design has remained firm, and, both companies enjoy a smooth flow of product.

Incorporating changes is a key part of any manufacturing process, and when it came to addressing *Smith & Nephew's* needs, **Graphiccast** was there – with clear communication, transparency, open discussions, and the technology to produce quality work in a fast, efficient, and cost-effective manner.

That is the Graphiccast advantage.



Graphiccast^{INC.}

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