

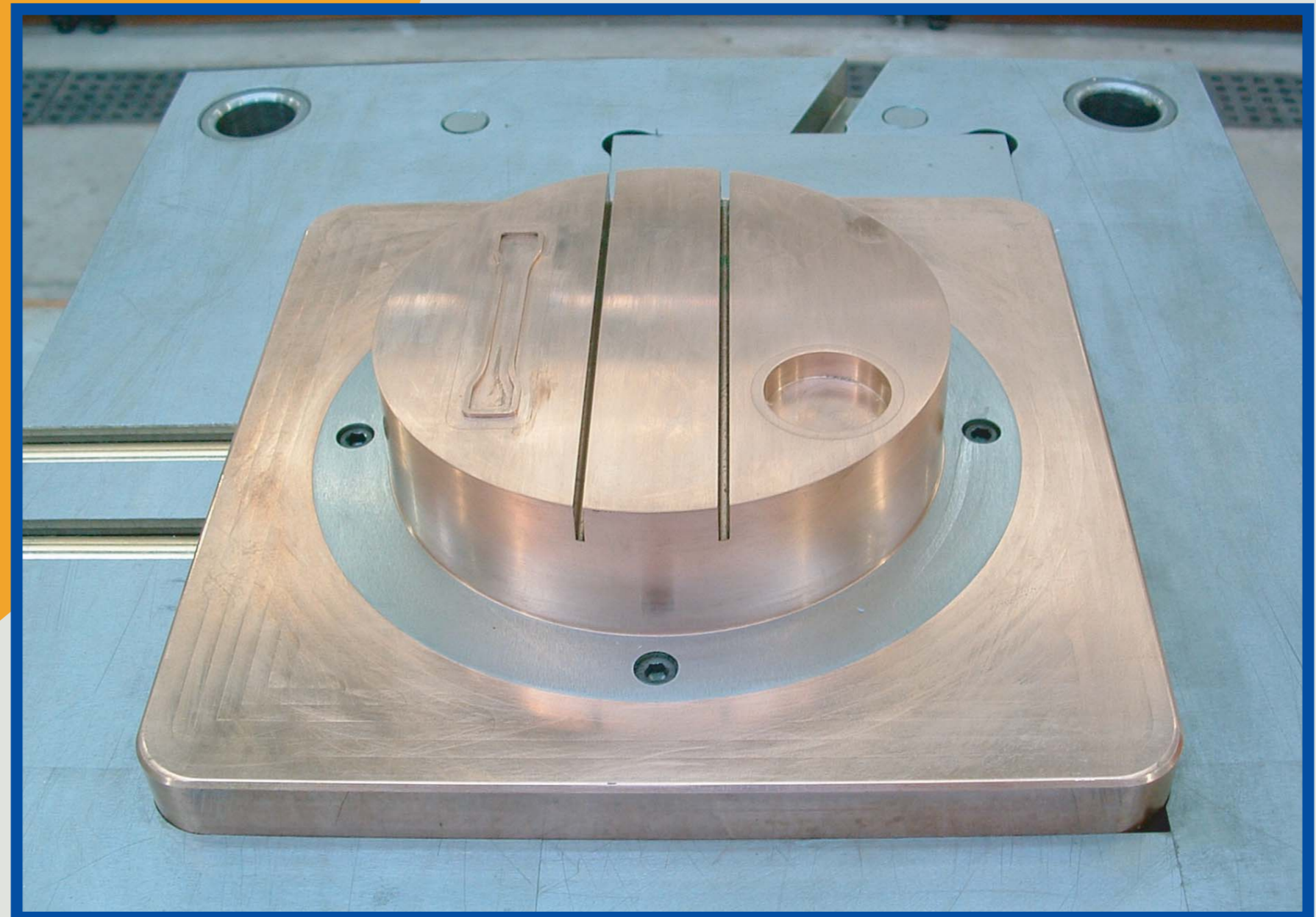
# AIMTECH

## Advanced Injection Moulding Technologies

This project aims to extend the range of techniques and products available to the plastic injection moulding industry, through the development of a copper alloy mould tooling system. This innovative use of copper will deliver a number of end-user benefits, both technical and commercial.

Initially the project will examine the use of copper alloys in the manufacture of injection moulding tools. A range of surface treatments to minimise wear will then be evaluated - an essential feature in the aggressive moulding environment.

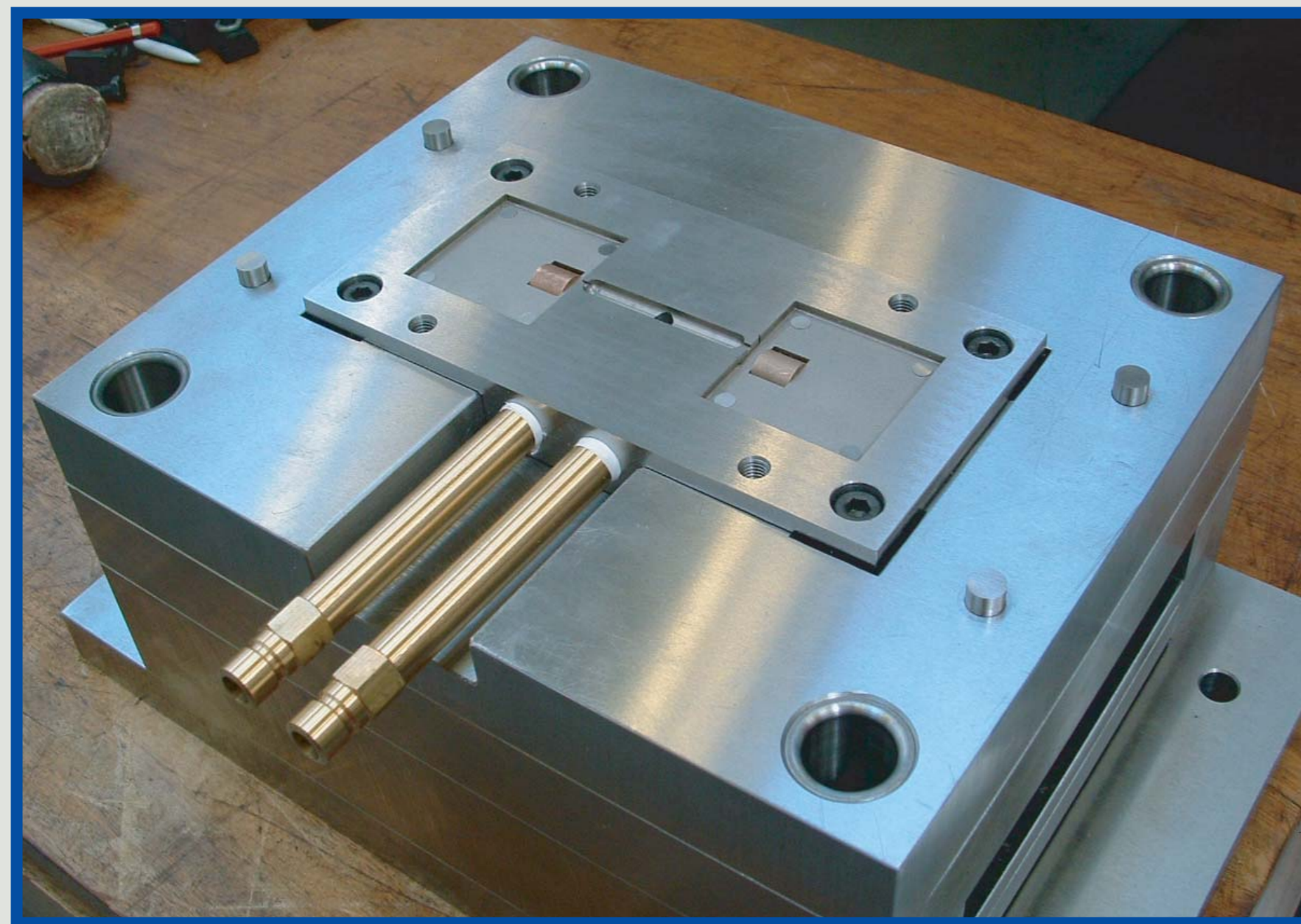
Copper has excellent thermal conductivity properties, so the project aims to show a reduction in moulding cycle times and a corresponding reduction in scrap rates, without any sacrifice in product quality.



It is anticipated that a one-third increase in injection moulding machine capacity will result from these process improvements.

A further stage in the project will determine the range of moulding applications best suited to the use of this new copper alloy tooling technology.

Finally it will be necessary to develop a Whole Life Cycle model in order to benchmark the new materials and systems against traditional steel technology.



Aimtech is a 5 year project, with a total value of €5 million, and involves sixteen commercial and academic partners, based in six European countries.



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