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Baxter Corporation, the Canadian subsidiary of Chicago-based Baxter International, is spending \$2 million to upgrade production machinery and automate processes at its medical products plant in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Baxter is installing the new equipment to increase the plant's production of the company's patented InterLink™ equipment for the U.S., Canadian and

offshore markets. The system replaces needles with blunt plastic devices called cannulas in blood transfusions, kidney dialysis and other intravenous

procedures, including the administration of pharmaceuticals.

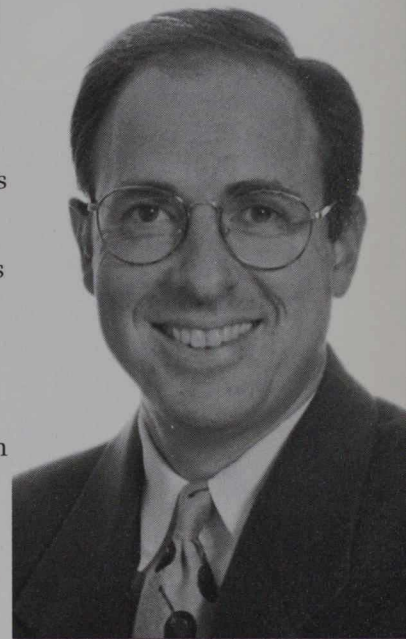
Announcing the project, Jim Utts, President of Baxter Corporation, said, "InterLink has grown substantially over the years because concerns about blood-borne contaminants or pathogens are causing hospitals to look at ways to eliminate the potential health risk associated with needle sticks."

Commenting on Baxter's decision to assign a larger share of InterLink production to Sherbrooke, Pierre Fréchette, Vice-President of Manufacturing, says, "The plant won its expanded role through performance. Ever since opening in 1983, it has maintained outstanding levels of excellence in customer satisfaction, service and quality."

Also contributing to the plant's success, says Fréchette, are important competitive advantages linked to the location. Sherbrooke has excellent transportation links to the nearby northeastern U.S. market, and to Europe via the port of Montreal. In addition, the city is the home of the University of Sherbrooke and its top-rated school of engineering.

"Over the years, Baxter has been a major employer of young graduate engineers from the university" says Fréchette. "In fact, the Sherbrooke plant has been something of a training ground for a sizeable contingent of engineers now employed in different parts of the Baxter organization."

Baxter International has 176 plants throughout the world. Baxter Corporation is Canada's largest supplier of specialized health products and services. The Sherbrooke plant is one of two that the company operates in Canada. ♦



Pierre Fréchette,
Vice-President of Manufacturing
Baxter Corporation

