

# THE PLAIN DEALER



## Another Theken firm in Akron

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A member of the Theken family of companies has moved to Akron from Princeton, N.J., bringing with it two employees and the need to hire six more.

Therics LLC joins sister companies Theken Spine LLC, Theken Disc, LLC and Theken Orthopaedic Inc., all in Akron. The companies, which get part of their names from founder Randy Theken, develop spinal implants and related products, such as plates, screws and spacers.

Therics makes synthetic bone in the form of putty, wedges, implants and splints. Surgeons use these products to fill in bone voids, replace bone and support bone while it heals.

Therics workers make their products from a mineral compound called beta-tricalcium phosphate through a patented technology called Theriform.

Theriform is a three-dimensional printing process that makes devices by spraying layer upon layer of material in the desired form.

Making its products from the mineral compound rather than form real bone eliminates the potential to transfer disease from donor the recipient as well as cause allergic reaction in the recipient, said Theken spokeswoman Tiffany Lee. This material also promotes bone growth, Lee said.

Moving Therics to Akron was a "large undertaking," said Ron Clough, Theken operations vice president, in a written statement. Theken added space in an undisclosed building for Therics and installed a "compliant controlled environment: in which Therics products are made. This environment is similar to a clean room environment, Lee said.

Therics, of which Randy Theken is president, plans to begin making a flexible foam strip made from beta-tricalcium phosphate. Theken bought Therics from Tredegar Corp. in July 2005.

While Therics researchers stayed in Princeton, the company needs to hire six operators in Akron for the company's high tech machines, Lee said.