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Otis takes Innovation Prize

Otis Elevator Co.'s new Gen2 machine earned the 2001 Platinum Connecticut Innovation Prize. Otis, with headquarters in Farmington, is a unit of United Technologies Corp.

The Connecticut Innovation Prize is one of the Connecticut Quality Improvement Awards, which represent America's first state-level quality award. Otis' winning entry was a new machine with a polyurethane-coated steel belt that replaces steel cables many times its weight.

Otis earned the Innovation Prize's Platinum level for developing the first innovation in lifting technology in more than a century. On the Gen2 product, flat belts containing strands of polyurethane-wrapped, high-tensile steel are more flexible than traditional cables, and therefore require a smaller hoisting sheave. This smaller sheave in turn enables the Gen2 motor to be installed in the hoistway instead of a machine room.

Since introducing Gen2 in 2000, Otis has taken leadership in the growing machine-roomless market, with sales of more than 8,000 units.

Otis Elevator Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation, is the world's largest company in the manufacture, sale, installation and service of people moving products including elevators, escalators, shuttle systems and moving walkways.