

Companies

Investment-cast Part from Aristo Cast Recognized in AFS Casting Contest

Investment Casting Institute member Aristo Cast, Inc., Almont, MI, was one of nine casters recently recognized as Best in Class in the 2003 AFS Casting Contest. Five honorable mentions and the 2003 Casting of the Year were also recognized in the contest, which attracted more than 50 components from virtually every metal type and casting process.

Aristo Cast, Inc.'s entry was a telescopic trailer tow mirror mount for a pickup truck. The investment foundry used rapid prototyping to deliver 19 sets of completed AZ91E magnesium castings weighing 245 grams to the customer, Schefenacker Vision Systems, four weeks after receiving the design. In addition to tight delivery and tolerance requirements, the casting has thin-wall requirements from 0.06-0.12 in. that are achieved via investment casting. Magnesium was the material of choice for its superior metallurgical qualities and castability as well as its ability to provide a three-pound per mirror weight savings over aluminum.

Casting of the year went to Hitchcock Industries, Inc., Minneapolis, MN for a strut fan cowl support beam for the Boeing 737.

Other Best in Class Awards went to: Smith Foundry Co., Minneapolis, MN for a drive wheel for a construction and landscape utility loader for The Toro Co., Bloomington, MN; Meridian Technologies, Strathroy, Ontario, Canada, for a front-end support assembly for the Ford F150 truck; Intermag-Modelex, St. Nicolas, Quebec, Canada for a multifunction bracket for a Ford Fuel Cell Automobile; Vehcom/Diversa Cast Manufacturing, Guelph, Ontario, Canada for an automotive pressure manifold; GM Powertrain, Defiance, OH, and Massena, NY for an inline 4 automotive engine cylinder block (Defiance) and head (Massena); Intermet Decatur Foundry, Decatur, IL for a rear control arm for the Ford Mustang Cobra; Ohio Aluminum Industries, Inc., Cleveland, OH for an electronic valve housing for a Hamilton Sundstrand Aircraft control system.; John Deere Foundry, Waterloo, IA,

for an agricultural tractor gudgeon housing for John Deere's 9000 Series Tractor.

Honorable mentions went to Morris Bean and Co., Yellow Springs, OH; Kurdziel

Iron of Rothbury, Inc., Rothbury, MI; Farrar Corp., Norwich, KS; Piad Precision Casting Corp., Greensburg, PA; Hayes Lemmerz International, Inc., Montague, MI.

Kemira Increases North American Presence with Acquisition of Vulcan Materials Company

Kemira, a global leader in pulp and paper chemicals, is further increasing its presence in North America through the acquisition of the pulp and paper chemicals business from Vulcan Materials Company.

The acquisition will be done through Kemira's wholly owned subsidiary Kemira Chemicals, Inc. which supplies pattern cleaners, lubricants, and shellbuilding materials to the investment casting industry.

The number of Kemira personnel is expected to increase by approximately 200 people.

Included in the transaction are plants in Columbus, GA; Shreveport, LA, and in Canada, Vancouver, British Columbia. The R&D Center in Columbus, GA is also part of the transaction. Product lines manufactured at these plants include emulsion polymers, defoamers, wet and dry strength resins and a variety of custom manufactured products.

Juhani Lindholm, executive vice president for the pulp and paper chemicals of Kemira, noted this acquisition is a significant step in growing Kemira's pulp and paper chemicals business and significantly enhances Kemira's ability to serve the pulp and paper industry globally.

Seth Spurlock, president and CEO of Kemira Chemicals, Inc. said the acquisition "builds upon our core paper, mineral slurries and water treatment businesses by enhancing our production capabilities, adding new technology and expanding our R&D efforts."

Kemira is focusing on growth in chemicals for the pulp and paper industry, water treatment chemicals, and paints and coatings. Net sales of the company are approximately 2.6 billion euros; the company employs 10,300 people. Vulcan Materials Company, an S&P 500 company, is a producer of industrial materials.

Guardian Software Announces New Position, Promotion

Guardian Software Systems recently announced the promotion of Karen Sell-Rehfeldt to support specialist, and the appointment of Jenny Gladczak as a sales and marketing associate.

After being with Guardian for the past two years, her Sell-Rehfeldt's role is to concentrate on the day-to-day questions from customers, thus allowing the company to expand its support and offer a quicker response time. With many enhancements are being implemented to offer better search and indexing capabilities, she also has been given the responsibility of online documentation coordinator of the Guardian Foundry System.

Due to additional inquiries on the Guardian Software System, Gladczak's responsibilities will include updating the website to take advantage of today's new technological advancements.

Company officials note the two positions are a response to a significant increase in activity in the metal casting marketplace.

Guardian now offers three versions of the software: GFS Enterprise, its most powerful Foundry Management System; GFS Professional, its most popular system for the mid-sized to large foundry; and GFS Xpress for the small foundry. For information, call 262-567-0341.