

Serving those who create precision metal products using stamping, fabricating and other value-added processes.



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Associations

Aluminum-Distributor and Service-Center Associations Unite

Members of the Metals Service Center Institute (MSCI) and the National Association of Aluminum Distributors (NAAD) have voted in favor of a merger of NAAD into MSCI. MSCI has already created an Aluminum Products Division, and local chapters of MSCI and NAAD are working to combine their activities. Current NAAD leadership will fundamentally continue as the leadership of the Aluminum Products Division, including former NAAD executive vice president Julie Thane, named director of the Aluminum Products Division. A number of NAAD representatives will take positions on the MSCI national board of directors.

Automotive Resistance-Welding Standard Revised

The American Welding Society (AWS) has issued the revised and updated edition of its Recommended Practices for Test Methods for Evaluating the Resistance Spot Welding Behavior of Automotive Sheet Steel Materials (AWS/SAE D8.9M:2002).

Use it to evaluate the performance of spot welding of coated and uncoated automotive sheet steels. Its weld-testing procedures were developed under the guidance of industry experts from automotive OEMs. Order on the AWS website, www.aws.org.

New Robotics Industry Directory

The 2002-03 Robotics Industry Directory, featuring profiles on nearly 200 supplier companies, now is available for free from the Robotic Industries Association (RIA), Ann Arbor, MI. The directory provides company information, industries served, application types, principal contact information and website addresses. Besides company listings, the directory includes two new articles, The Robotics Industry: Key Components to Productivity and Growth and Your First Robot.

The directory is available through the RIA website, www.roboticonline.com, or by calling 734/994-6088.

Facilities

GE Power Systems Opens New FL Stamping Facility

Thanks to the system-integration services of J. Williams & Associates (JWA), Spencer, OH, there's a new stamping plant in Pensacola, FL, owned by the Power Systems division of General Electric. Built from the ground up, the plant features a complete line that JWA assembled and ran off in Cleveland in February 2002 and again in March. Equipment includes a push-pull servo-feed system with powered reel, side car and threading table; a 350-ton straightside press with automation control; mechanical part loader; magnetic positioning conveyors; a sander for debur-

ring; and skewing conveyors to feed deburred parts into an automated stacker. Auxiliary items include a material lube system and a quick-die-change package.

Key individuals involved with integrating the line were JWA president Jeff Williams, who oversaw the entire project; team leader Mike Williams, who also handled the positioning conveyors, sander and stacker; Ted Williams, who worked with the feed company and helped to set up and calibrate the press control; and Bill Williams, responsible for mechanical issues on the press and for ensuring smooth functioning of the secondary operations.

Braner Sells Multi-Blanking Line to J&F

J&F Steel Corp., Burns Harbor, IN, soon will receive a new multi-blanking line to be designed, manufactured and installed by Braner USA, Inc., Schiller Park, IL. The 72- by 0.015- by 0.125-in. line, rated to 300 ft./min., will include a programmable slitter with automatic hands-off setup capability, a shape-correction cassette-type leveler equipped with two interchangeable six-high work-roll cassettes and a power cassette opener for simple maintenance and on-the-fly blank-reject capability.

L.A. Welcomes New Laser Tech Center

Bystronic Inc., Hauppauge, NY, announced the opening of a new regional technical center near Los Angeles, CA, to serve the needs of its laser-cutting

customers in the Western United States. The center houses laser machinery for product demonstrations, applications assistance and training programs, and will hold software programming classes presented in English and Spanish. The center is a cooperative venture between Bystronic and its Southwest representative Precision Fabricating Systems, Inc.

Maverick Tube Installs Heavy-Duty Shearwelder

Guild International, Inc., Bedford, OH, has completed startup of its heavy-duty Model DMI 650-52 shearwelder at Maverick Tube LLC, Blythville, AK. The unit is installed on a 16-in.-

dia. pipe mill that can handle strip to 0.650 in. thick at yield strength to 100,000 psi.

The shearwelder comprises entry and exit passline rolls, heavy-duty entry and exit side guides, a hydraulic shear rated to 145 tons, and weld clamps mounted on an indexing platen to allow for automatic strip fitup. A pair of gas-metal-arc-welding stations weld in the center of the strip and on the front edge of the strip simultaneously, to minimize weld time.

Sesco Installs Integrated Blanking Lines

KTH Parts Industries, a primary supplier of structural stampings and welded assemblies to Honda of

America, has installed two integrated blanking lines from Sesco Products Group, Sterling Heights, MI. The lines, capable of processing 0.125-in.-thick by 72-in.-wide HSLA material at speeds to 230 ft./min., will allow KTH to blank in-house and maintain the required standards for on-time delivery, part quality and operational efficiency. A PLC with three touch-screen panels monitors all equipment in the lines—uncoiler, traveling coil car, crop shear, straightener, servo roll feed, etc.—and provides the operator with information on setup, troubleshooting and diagnostics. Sesco partnered with Aida Dayton Technologies on the lines,

which feature 600-ton high-speed blanking presses.

Cleveland Toll Processor Upgrades Capabilities

Ferrous Metal Processing, Cleveland, OH, has acquired a four-high cold-reduction reversing mill that will enable its customers to send their product over for temper rolling to improve flatness, gauge and surface, as well as for cold reduction. The mill should be operational by first quarter of 2003.

It can roll steel from 0.037 to 0.312 in. thick, 18.5 to 62 in. wide. FMP is rebuilding and retrofitting the mill for carbon grades, to provide gauge tolerances of ± 0.0005 in.

Arvin Sango Installs Dual Stacking System

Wayne Trail Technologies, Inc., Fort Laramie, OH, has supplied a dual stacking system to automotive-parts stamper Arvin Sango. Installed at the firm's plant in Madison, IN, the stacker handles parts coming two-out of an Aida 800-ton press at speeds to 65 strokes/min.

The line is used to run formed parts in bulk and palletized blanks. Continuous-run capability enables it to continue to stack parts while a full pallet of parts indexes onto a powered roller conveyor and is off-loaded by a towmotor. Moveable rails on the pallets accommodate a range

of part sizes. Parts can be off-loaded directly from the pallets so that the pallets can remain with the system.

Arvin Sango manufactures components for fuel tanks, exhaust systems, instrument-panel beams, door-impact beams and Class-C stampings.

Agreements

Strippit/LVD Appoints Marketing Representative

Strippit/LVD, Akron, NY, named Advanced Machinery, Inc., Plymouth, MN, as marketing representative, responsible for product sales in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and portions of Wisconsin and

Iowa. Advanced Machinery will represent the complete line of Strippit equipment including mechanical and hydraulic CNC turret punch presses, laser-cutting systems, hydraulic press brakes, guillotine shears, flexible fabricating systems and CAD/CAM programming software.

FIM Metalworking Machines Available in United States

The Italian Technology Association (ITA) now markets the FIM line of metalworking machines in the United States. FIM, which has manufactured for the European market for years, offers a series of universal horizontal presses and a

range of tooling that allows bending, curving, shearing, straightening and punching on a single machine. The FIM series of punch/nibblers is available with either hydraulic or mechanical clamping.

FIM also offers a full line of fixed- and variable-angle notchers and a line of plate bevellers. Such equipment is showcased in the ITA offices in Sparta, NJ. For more information, contact ITA at tel. 973/579-3400.

Entron Controls Acquires British Federal Division

Entron Controls, Inc., Carol Stream, IL, a supplier of resistance-welding control systems, has purchased the British Federal Electron-

ics Division in the United Kingdom, and formed BF Entron, Ltd. Entron traditionally serves an 80-percent commercial market and 20-percent automotive; BF Entron hopes to capture 80 percent automotive, including a significant portion of the world automotive resistance-welding market.

Internet

Website Describes In-Line Thickness Gauge

Original Systems Inc., Dayton, OH, now offers a website, www.t-gage.com, that describes the T-Gage, an in-line strip-thickness gauge highlighted in the November issue of *Metal-*

Forming, p. 32.

Included are specifications, photos and a rundown of advantages for metalformers employing the gauge. From the site, visitors can request additional information.

New Coil-Handling Website

Littell International, Inc., Addison, IL, has launched a new website, www.littellcoil-systems.com. Users can download service bulletins, find useful information including specifications and photos of the firm's line of coil-handling equipment (uncoilers, straighteners, feeders and accessories) and view company news. Later this year, the firm will

open an E-Store on the website where customers can search, browse and order parts.

Certifications

Thiel Tool & Engineering Co., Inc., St. Louis, MO, has been recommended for ISO 9001:2000 certification. The firm operates 100- to 800-ton presses and specializes in close-tolerance deep-drawn stamping from medium- to heavy-gauge metal.

ISO 9002:1994 certification has been issued to **Allied Pacific Metal Stamping**, for implementation of a quality-management system governing its manufacture and supply of standard and

custom metal stampings. The firm designs and builds progressive dies, and operates presses to 500 tons.

Hudapack Metal Treating, Elkhorn, WI, has been awarded an upgrade to ISO 9001:2000 certification. The firm serves Chicago, Milwaukee and Rockford manufacturers.

W.A. Whitney Co., Rockford, IL, has passed the conversion audit to the new ISO 9002:2000 standards. Among the quality-management principles involved with earning the upgrade: customer focus, leadership, involvement of people, continual improvement and mutually beneficial supplier relationships.

TKF, Inc., Cincinnati,

NewsFronts

OH, manufacturer of conveyor and material-handling systems, has attained ISO 9001:1994 certification. The company serves the appliance, packaging, automotive and other manufacturing and processing industries, providing vertical, accumulation, carousel, overhead and transfer units.

People

Finn-Power Canada, Ltd., Toronto, Ontario, has expanded its customer-support organization to meet the needs of the Canadian sheetmetal market. The expansion includes these personnel moves: **Neil Campbell** becomes regional manager, responsible for sales and customer support; **Craig Wiseman** becomes applications coordinator; and **Mike Huopalainen** becomes customer service coordinator.



CAMPBELL

Elrae Industries, Inc., a producer of stamped and rollformed components and custom assemblies, appointed **Terry L. Jacobson** regional sales manager for the Midwest region of the United States.

Res Manufacturing Co., Milwaukee, WI, named **Dr. John Ormerod** president. The firm designs and manufactures progressive-die metal stampings and sub-assemblies.



JACOBSON

Bosch Rexroth Corp., Hoffman Estates, IL, has named two new officers: **James F. Brys** as vice president of Automotive and Great Lakes region, and **Paul A. Swann** as vice president of West and South regions.

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BOSSARD



PECKHAM

Salvagnini America, Inc., Hamilton, OH, named **Bill Bossard** vice president-sales and marketing, and **Sherman Peckham** tooling manager.

James Owen has been named vice president of Automatics & Machinery Co., Inc., Longmont, CO.

Southern Aluminum Finishing (SAF) Co., Atlanta, GA, has appointed **Tom Hall** to Western Region account manager. Hall formerly served as SAF production manager. The service center supplies architectural aluminum and finishing services.

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM), Washington, D.C., has hired **Richard D. James** as director of standards and certification programs. James formerly served as a director of conformity assessment at the American National Standards Institute.

Metabo Corp., West Chester, PA, manufacturer of electric power tools and abrasives, named **Martin Cross** director of corporate development.

