

IMF-NA partners with Simpson Technologies as its Exclusive Agent for North American Metalcasting Markets

One of IMF's traditional desires has always been to develop strong partnerships with all its customers worldwide by combining its world class technology with superior local sales, service and technical support. For these reasons, IMF-NA has entered into an agreement with Simpson Technologies Corp., a well known company with a long tradition of excellence in the North American market, to provide them with the exclusive agency for the sale and service of all IMF Group equipment in the North American markets of the United States, Canada and Mexico. With the combination of IMF technologies and Simpson's sales and technical support capabilities, IMF-NA will offer North American metal casters access to the world's best technology in no-bake sand casting – from individual machines to turn-key, integrated no-bake molding systems – together with timely and local after-sale service, spare parts and technical support. For large systems and integrated molding plants Simpson will be fully supported with the extensive engineering and technical capabilities of IMF srl in Luino, Italy.



Mr. G. Galante and Mr. B. Dienst toast the new alliance.

Mount Fuji witness the agreement

Kurita Industrial Co. Ltd, has selected the IMF Italian project for its new foundry. The new production unit, with less than 30 employees, will commence production at the beginning of 2006, with an output of 30.000 ton/year of high quality nodular iron castings. During the final negotiations, Mr Tetsuya Kurita, Managing Director of Kurita Industrial Co. Ltd, has forwarded his appreciation to IMF for the cooperation offered during the design stages and its inspiring, innovative concepts. With this project, IMF won the biggest No Bake foundry project ever to be built in Japan, demonstrating that industrialized countries with innovative projects can compete with developing countries, even in the foundry sector.



The agreement between Mr. G. Galante President of IMF Srl, in Luino, Italy and Mr. Takeo Kurita, President and Mr. Tetsuya Kurita, Managing Director of Kurita Industrial Co. Ltd. In Shizuoka, Japan.

Meeting the challenges of a changing market-place

IMF's moves to increase the scope of its international activities, over the last two years, have proved to be particularly successful. The difficult trading climate encountered several years back is now but a memory. The company's order book in 2004 was at a record level, reflected in the highest turnover figures ever attained by IMF. The current year, to date, promises an even higher volume of business. However, the organization is not content to rest on the back of its previous achievements and is actively seeking to expand its sales still further. Amongst a number of proactive steps are the identification of new markets in emerging industrial centres -- such as Byelorussia, Russia, Kazakhstan and Egypt; adapting technical proposals to meet the demands of new and specialist areas of casting manufacture; improving the specification of well-established items of plant in the IMF range, and the introduction of new versions in line with its customers' needs. IMF is already aware of the potential in the market-place for winning substantial projects, such as turnkey installations. To this end, the company has already hired an additional number of very experienced engineers and set up a net-work of freelance consultants. The many outstanding quotations on the company's books, together with a number in preparation, is an indication of the success of these moves. The

substantial investment in the Luino plant, and in the organization's facilities in the Czech Republic, Brazil and The People's Republic of China, combined with the design and engineering experience which has been gained over many decades in Italy, is now bringing its rewards. The combined project capability, together with the relatively low manufacturing costs of IMF's overseas plants, means that clients can obtain excellent quality at competitive prices. In recent decades, the structure of the global foundry industry has undergone remarkable changes, not the least the transfer of casting production from traditional centres, such as Europe, to emerging industrialized nations, typified by India and China. It will therefore be logical for established suppliers of foundry equipment to expect to encounter competition from a new generation of plant manufacturers based in these regions. This is a challenge which will have to be met. In spite of these potential problems, IMF is still the world's largest manufacturer of No-Bake foundry equipment. More importantly, it is a company held in high regard by its established clients, who have come to regard the firm as their first choice in the provision of quotations and technical assistance. IMF's know-how, manufacturing facilities and its ability to meet the requirements of foundries around the world cannot be easily matched. The company is still recording

remarkable successes in new and emerging markets, such as those in the former Soviet Union, Asia and the Far East. They include the supply of integrated molding and coremaking plants for the Russian Uralvagonzavod steel-foundry and the Moaz steel-foundry in Byelorussia. Even more remarkable is the largest project ever undertaken by IMF for a developed country - a new foundry for the Kurita Industrial Corporation in Japan. This plant demonstrates that where there is a desire to invest in productivity and know-how, the foundry business can still have a bright future in industrialized countries.

G. Galante



38 agents from 22 countries at IMF agents' meeting 2005.

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G. Galante,	A. Poggi,	M. Ingegnoli,
C. Radice,	A. Milanese,	P. Milanese,
M. Favini,	E. Rastelli,	GM. Sai

KSB/GIW Industries Inc. installs advanced mobile mixer



T36/60/SM mobile mixer in operation.

Close cooperation between IMF and KSB/GIW Industries Inc. - Georgia (USA) led to a feasibility study for coordinating the production of large tight-flask molds. Central to the project was the supply and installation of a mobile mixer with a throughput of 2,200 lb (1,000 kg) per min. This double-arm articulated unit has a reach of 27 ft 10 in (8.5 m) and is equipped to work with a double catalyst circuit, thereby providing both rich and lean mixes of furan-bonded sand.

Mounted on the mobile car is a double sand hopper with a capacity of 50 tonnes of reclaimed sand and 18 tonnes of new sand. All electrical controls are managed by a PLC with a monitoring PC, with a modem connection, for tele-operation. A mobile radio-control system allows the operator to guide all operations from ground level.

E. Rastelli

IMF Brazil meets the demands of its South American customers

After being represented for more than 25 years in Brazil by an agent, IMF decided, at the beginning of 2003, to create IMF Brazil. The aim of this new enterprise was to respond, more closely, to the requirements of the internal market in South America. Whereas the main parts for large installations would continue to be supplied from Italy, the small- and medium-sized foundries in the region now had the opportunity to purchase locally-

manufactured equipment. IMF Brazil's factory is located at Piracicaba in the state of Sao Paulo. The company employs 25 people. New investments are currently being considered, such as the construction of a new production unit. This will allow the organisation to satisfy the many requests which are received from clients in Brazil, and within the South American market at large.

A. Poggi



The workshop.



The staff.



The building.

Harrison's super size No-Bake conversion

Harrison Steel Castings Co. Attica, Indiana



Each mold is automatically positioned in the center of the wash station to provide the operator with easy access. Once the wash has been applied, the mold half is automatically returned to the molding loop.



The autocloser lowers the cope on the drag previously placed on the pouring plate in the same way.

Instead of gradually adding No-Bake moulding lines and phasing out its existing green sand lines, Harrison Steel opted to install the second largest automated No-Bake molding line in North America and convert all molding over 18 months.

Geoff Curtis, Vice President and General Manager said:

"We started looking at it a little fresher and asked, -what's going to happen if we remove green sand from our operation? We looked at the savings by people, process and quality. All of those things made sense."

Harrison has been through a lot during its conversion from green sand molding to No-Bake. The sprint to finish the project is evidence of that. But the bugs are being worked out and quality is improving. Now Harrison can focus on perfecting its new operation and increasing productivity.

"I think we are going to be pushing our production level," Curtis said. "It may even increase. We may be finding ourselves getting even more out."



J. Flanklin and A. Bloomquist in front of the super size flaskless mold at Harrison.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE ?



The rolover draw automatically strips cured mould halves from the pattern and places them on a flat belt conveyor.



Nearly every stage of the molding loop is completely automated, including the automatic strikeoff.



IMF sro extends its scope of activities



■ ALUMINIUM MELTING FURNACE



■ Afterburner for alloy wheels painting

IMF sro, a specialist in the supply of fabricated steel structures, has entered the international market-place with the production of finished machines and equipment. These items are designed, manufactured, assembled and tested within the Sedlcany works in the Czech Republic.

Besides producing equipment such as shake-outs and scrubbers for IMF srl, IMF sro has provided melting furnaces for Calamari.

Other plant has included aluminium chip drying systems designed to eliminate contami-



■ Gas drying tunnel

nation from oil, before remelting.

Of despecial interest is the company's manufacture of installations for the handling of heat-treated tubes, including one for Ceruti, Italy and another for Gazprom Russia, under commitment and engineering of Sytco AG; IMF sro is now manufacturing a second tube handling plant for its Russian customer, also in this case under commitment and engineering of Sytco AG.

In the case of the Ceruti turn-key contract, IMF sro provided all the necessary equipment for the handling of the tubes, including the automation of all stages in the production process, together with the design of the electrical circuits and SW handling logics.

The new layout is capable of producing a large range of tubes at a high rate of productivity, a task which was formerly carried out on several plants.

✎ A. Milanese



■ The installation for the handling of heat-treated tubes at Ceruti - Italy.