

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



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Associations

McGregor, DiMicco Join White House Meeting on Manufacturing

On December 16, Jim McGregor, vice chairman of The McGregor Metalworking Companies, Springfield, OH, attended the White House Middle Class Task Force Manufacturing meeting. McGregor, along with Vice President Joe Biden, top administration officials and CEOs from among the country's largest manufacturing corporations, including Nucor Corp. chairman, president and CEO Dan DiMicco, participated in discussions centered on how to revitalize American manufacturing. McGregor emphasized the importance of lower healthcare costs, improved access to credit for small businesses, and a thorough, fact-based government analysis of the competitive disadvantages that U.S. manufacturing companies face against overseas competitors.

"Small manufacturers are the job creators and the backbone of our communities," said McGregor. "The proposals we are discussing today must ensure that small manufacturers become more cost-competitive with our overseas competition. We can compete with anyone in the world if we are on a level playing field."

To view excerpts from McGregor's remarks at the White House meeting, visit the PMA OneVoice advocacy website, www.metalworkingadvocate.org.

Agreements

Aida Expands its U.S. Distribution Network

Aida-America, Dayton, OH, has added the following companies to its distributor network: PTW Sales, LLC, Chagrin Falls, OH (exclusive distributor for Ohio); AMP Machinery Systems Inc., Carol Stream, IL (exclusive distributor for Northern Illinois); and M-Tech, Hoover, AL (exclusive distributor for Alabama and Mississippi).

Kevin Roberts, Owner of Perfecto, Acquires Littell

Littell, LLC, owned by Kevin Roberts, has purchased the operating assets of Littell Intl., Inc., Schaumburg, IL, a manufacturer of uncoilers, straighteners, feeds and accessories for the press-room and coil-processing industries. Roberts also owns Perfecto Industries, Piqua, OH, and Gaylord, MI, a manufacturer of coil-handling and feed equipment.

Lincoln Electric Partners to Develop 3D Steel-Fabrication Simulation Software

Lincoln Electric Automation, Cleveland, OH, has partnered with Jitech Fabrication Technologies, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, to develop 3D simulation software to allow structural-steel fabricators to simulate and evaluate alternative methods for the automation of steel-fabrication operations. The software, called StrucCIM, will help fabricators coordinate several discrete operations, including

cutting, coping, layout marking and welding. Under the partnership agreement, Lincoln Electric Automation will integrate StrucCIM, sell licenses, and build custom robotic-welding and cutting cells; Jitech will develop optimized, automatic programming features for each workcell layout.

Leifeld Introduces New U.S. Sales Partner

Leifeld Metal Spinning, a German manufacturer of heavy-duty metal-spinning machines, has named International Technologies, Inc., Schaumburg, IL, its sales partner in the United States, joining Leico USA, Farmington Hills, MI, to represent Leifeld in North America.

Metal Stamper/Fabricator Acquires Coatings Company

Matenaer Corp., West Bend, WI, a manufacturer of special washers and other stamped, fabricated and CNC machined components, acquired the assets of Service Coatings, Inc., Milwaukee, WI, a rack-dip and spray coater of Dacromet and Geomet zinc-aluminum dispersion coatings.

North American Stamping Group Acquires Brittany Stamping Assets

Brittany Stamping, LLC, Cleveland, OH, has sold its Duffy Tool and Stamping Ltd. and Sovereign Tool and Engineering Ltd. subsidiaries, both in Muncie, IN, to North American Stamping Group (NASG). NASG operates Woodstock Stampings in Woodstock,

Ontario, Canada; Ada Stampings in Ada, OH; Tennessee Stampings in Portland and Pulaski, TN; and Troquelados Queretaro S. de R.L. de C.V. in Queretaro, Mexico.

Facilities

The Steel Shop Reengineers a Plant for Press Installation

When metalforming company E & E Manufacturing, Plymouth, MI, recently had to clear an 80- by 120-ft. area of its 250,000-sq.-ft. shop to make room for installation of a press, it called on turnkey design and build company The Steel Shop, Chesterfield, MI, to manage the project.

The Steel Shop's craftsmen removed an existing building column and reinforced the roof to make way for the equipment needed to construct the press pit and install the press. They also designed, fabricated and installed a mezzanine for the press controls and electrical service lines.

Belgian Service Center Adds Blanking Line with Stretcher Leveler

To meet customer demands for laser-quality low-stress material, Coil Pro, in Gent Zwijnaarde, Belgium, installed an 84-in.-wide blanking line with a stretcher leveler, from Red Bud Industries, Red Bud, IL. The line, with maximum weight capacity of 80,000 lb., includes a coil stage and load system, uncoiler, peeler breaker,

crop shear, dust collector, edge-trim system, stretcher leveler, inkjet-marking system, heavy-gauge grip feed, variable-rake shear, and drop stacker with end-discharge rollouts.

Chicago Stamper Relocates to Larger Wheeling Facility

Wood Brothers Steel Stamping relocated from Chicago to a recently acquired 30,300-sq.-ft. facility in Wheeling, IL, taking advantage of improved shipping and receiving capabilities and Cook County's tax-reduction program.

Bosch Rexroth Opens Regional Service Center in Dallas

Manufacturers in need of repair, upgrade and maintenance of Rexroth hydraulic products—warranty services, repairs and conversions—now can add a new 14,000-sq.-ft. regional service center in Dallas, TX, to their list of resources. The service center will support customers in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and parts of Florida. It features new hydraulics test stands and will service Rexroth motors and pumps, as well as proportional and servo valves.

BMW Installs Schuler Servo-Press Lines

The Schuler Group has installed two new stamping-press lines at the BMW Group's facilities in Leipzig and Regensburg, Germany. The lines feature Schuler's ServoDirect technology,

blank loaders, crossbar-feeder automation and end-of-line automation. BMW will install a third Schuler line at its Munich plant in 2011.

The line in Leipzig, launched on September 9, 2009, will produce more than 40 parts for the BMW 1 and X1 series. The 320-ft. line includes six servo presses linked by seven crossbar feeders, with a total press force of 11,600 tons, including a 2800-ton leadoff press; speed capacity is 17 strokes/min.

Plastic-Molding Company Moves into Metal Stamping and Assembly

Dikten Masch Plastics LLC (DMP), Nashotah, WI, a thermoplastic and thermoset molder, has entered the metal stamping and assembly business by taking over the dipstick and tube business from the production facility of Charter Automotive, in nearby Milwaukee. DMP, which had been supplying molded plastic

components to Charter Automotive, has installed and begun to run in limited production one of Charter's stamping presses, and by the end of 2010 it expects to have four of Charter's presses—from 50 to 300 tons—up and running.

In addition, 60 Charter employees will transfer to DMP's facility. The company has contracts with GM, Chrysler and Nissan, a verbal commitment from Ford, and is in negotiations with Honda, according to an article in *BizTimes Milwaukee*.

Dorner Launches Conveyor Hotline

Receive immediate technical assistance with conveyor-related problems from the newly launched Dorner Mfg. hotline: 800/351-8712. Call from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT to ask the firm's

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engineers questions related to conveying speed, product transfers and other material-handling topics.

Ohio Steel Processor Upgrades its Oscillated-Coil Capabilities

Specialty Strip & Oscillating, Inc., Masury, OH, has installed two new oscillators to improve its ability to provide oscillated coils of cold-rolled, low- or high-carbon, alloy or stainless-steel strip and sheet. New oscillator capabilities include face sizes from 4 to 14 in., width from 0.260 to 2.5 in., gauge from 0.009 in., welds annealed and ground, slit or deburred, straight-patterned coil walls and coiled on steel liners, fiber cores or spools.

Customers now can run a coil uninterrupted for 10 to 15 times longer than with conventional ribbon-wound coils, say company officials, eliminating downtime, coil-end scrap loss, and coil telescoping and tangling.

Specialty Strip & Oscillating provides oscillate coils with 20 to 25 miles of continuous strip that weigh as much as 5000 lb.

Internet

Check Out MachineTools.com Version 2.0

Machine-tool online marketplace MachineTools.com released version 2.0 of its website, built on an open-architecture platform and loaded with new features. Visitors will note and appreciate improved search func-

tionality, more photos, video ads, a machine knowledge database and more.

Mayfran Launches Updated Website

Mayfran Intl., Cleveland, OH, upgraded its website with more information on its products and systems—scrap-management systems for metal-stamping operations, machine-tool chip and coolant systems, and more. It's also added new application examples, including the use of a press-mounted shuffle drive for scrap removal at the press. The site, www.mayfran.com, is available in multiple languages.

Vacuum Grippers, Clamps and More Featured on Website

Schmalz Inc., Raleigh, NC, has relaunched its updated website and online shop with expanded information about its vacuum products and application descriptions. Visit www.schmalz.com for a look at the firm's vacuum automation components and systems for gripping, material handling and clamping. Look up prices and availability in real time, view 2D and 3D images as well as video clips, and order products and track order status from the online shop.

Browse Magnetic-Products Catalog Online

Magnetic Products, Inc., Highland, MI, has launched a redesigned website that catalogs more than 1000 magnetic and nonmagnetic material-handling products.

The website, www.mpimagnet.com, also offers online shopping, printable technical materials and dozens of images.

Business Notes

Plex Receives \$6 Million Shot in the Arm

ERP-software provider Plex Systems, Inc., Auburn Hills, MI, announced it has received a \$6 million equity investment from numerous sources, including \$5 million from private equity firm Apax Partners, as well as investments from company management and its founding investors. Plex provides a software-as-a-service ERP solution for manufacturers called Plex Online.

Awards

Deep-Draw Stamper Earns Environmental Compliance Award

Truex, Inc., Pawtucket, RI, received its sixth Environmental Perfect Compliance award from the Narragansett Bay Commission of Rhode Island, demonstrating a perfect record of compliance to the commission's regulations. Of the 1500 companies in the state, only 14 achieved a perfect record for the year.

Trumpf Recognizes CT Distributor for Sales Excellence

The laser-marking division of Trumpf Inc., Farmington, CT, presented its annual TruMark Sales Award for 2009 to the Robert E.

Morris Co., Windsor, CT. The award recognizes exceptional performance in selling Trumpf's TruMark laser-marking products.

Robert E. Morris Co. supplies machine tools and related engineering and support services throughout New England.

Certifications

Slice of Stainless, Cincinnati, OH, has been registered to ISO 9001:2008. The service center distributes stainless steel and nickel alloys, offering 20 alloys in 19 thicknesses, and ships in state-of-the-art reusable packaging—wood-framed double-wall corrugated cardboard, 1- and 5-gal. plastic containers and hardwood box skids.

The Bazz Houston Co. has upgraded to ISO 9001:2008 at its manufacturing plants in Garden Grove, CA, and Tijuana, Mexico. The firm manufactures springs, metal stampings and wire forms, and also performs assembly operations and builds tooling. Compared to ISO 9001:2000, the new standard, issued about a year ago, includes some important differences. For starters, according to the website of Praxiom Research Group, it emphasizes the need to ensure that outsourced processes comply with all customer and legal requirements. And, in the area of customer requirements, the new standard holds companies accountable for identifying specific post-delivery

requirements such as warranty provisions, contractual obligations such as maintenance, and supplementary services such as recycling and final disposal. Praxiom offers an online ISO 9001:2008 gap analysis at www.praxiom.com/iso-gap.htm.

People

Seyi Presses, Inc., with North American headquarters in Walnut, CA, named **Lanny Griffin** president, responsible for the firm's North American operations. He'll continue to work at the firm's regional office in Tullahoma, TN, and will focus on overseeing the company's sales and service functions.

Ralph Hardt has been named president of Jagemann Stamping Co., Manitowoc, WI, a manufacturer of deep-drawn and progressive metal stampings, tooling, machine parts and assemblies. Hardt also will become a partner in the business and its enterprises

and join the firm's board of directors. **Tom Jagemann** remains as CEO.

Schuler Inc., Canton, MI, assigned **Andy Osborn** to service sales and engineering manager, appointed **Rick O'Donnell** service technical manager, and named Brad Hagemeyer human resources manager.

Martin Quinn has been appointed president of Thermadyne Industries, St. Louis, MO, a manufacturer of metal cutting and welding products, having previously served the company as executive vice president of global sales and marketing.

Prab, Kalamazoo, MI, hired **Tracy Swartzendruber** as director of marketing. The firm manufactures conveyors and scrap-handling systems for turning and machining cells, stamping and die casting lines.