



Metaldyne Group to consolidate Metal-forming brands

Metaldyne Performance Group, a leading provider of highly engineered components for use in powertrain and suspension applications for the global light, commercial and industrial vehicle markets has announced it is consolidating its portfolio of iconic and historic metal-forming brands, many of which have been in existence for nearly 100 years.

Brands known for delivering world-class products, including HHI, Grede, Cloyes, Metaldyne, Jernberg, Impact Forge, NovoCast and FormTech, will now fall under the MPG moniker. "Our business was formed nearly two years ago through a combination of three metal-forming technology manufacturing companies," said MPG CEO

George Thanopoulos. "Integration has gone exceptionally well and exactly as planned. As such, we can now take the next step to brand ourselves solely as MPG."

Reorganizing to one brand reflects one unified organization although all the legal entities and reporting segments in the company will remain intact.

"The change to MPG reflects an ongoing integration of great companies that provide global customer solutions using advanced engineering and product development expertise," said Doug Grimm, president and chief operating officer. "Our former iconic brands combine to make a stronger 'One MPG' and will further enhance our progress towards our long-term growth targets."

PPA Grades launch as alternative to Die-cast Metals

A new range of polyamide grades that can substitute die-casting metals has been launched by Royal DSM.



The "ForTii" MX grades extend DSM's portfolio of the high-performance polyphthalamides (PPA) based on polyamide 4T. They are said to show better properties than existing PPA materials in terms of mechanical strength and toughness across a broad range of temperatures. Grades are available with glass-fibre reinforcement ranging from 30% to 50%.

Ralf Ponicki, programme manager for die cast replacement, said injection mouldings in ForTii MX could offer cost savings of up to 50% compared to parts die-cast in aluminium, magnesium and zinc. High-performance thermoplastics already offer typical cost reductions of 20-30% over die-casting. Improvements in weight savings are on a similar level. Extra possibilities exist for integrating functionality, improving product safety, and simplifying logistics and handling, Ponicki noted.

Potential is seen for the grades in structurally loaded parts such as housings, covers and brackets in the automotive powertrain, air and fuel systems, chassis and suspension, and also in industrial products, pumps, valves, actuators, home appliances and fasteners.

Plastics have gradually been replacing metals in various applications for many years but DSM believes the potential for replacing die-cast metal parts remains extremely large. It said the market for die-cast replacement is growing by nearly 10% per year and the increasing availability of materials such as ForTii MX would ensure that high growth continues and possibly increases well into the future. As a result, the company is continuing to develop new series of ForTii for this particular market. "We still have at least one ace up our sleeve," commented Ponicki. DSM plans to make further announcements later this year.

This section is a compilation from various company press releases, business dailies & trade publications

APAC's Foundry and Forging Robots market is expected to reach USD 1.4bln by 2020



The foundry and forging robots market in APAC was valued at USD 934 million in 2015 and is expected to reach USD 1.4 billion by 2020, growing at a CAGR of 8.4%.

In March 2016, the Chinese government released a new economic strategy called the Five Year Plan to improve China's annual growth by at least 6.5% and double the per capita income by 2020. It has identified the semiconductor industry as a key area for investment and development. "APAC's semiconductor industry is experiencing high investments, enhancing semiconductor production and meeting the ever-growing needs of the electronics and automotive industries in the region. A part of these

investments will be spent on the implementation of automation and robotics solutions, including foundry and forging robots," says Bharath Kannappan, a lead analyst at Technavio for research on robotics.

The foundry and forging robots market in the Americas was valued at USD 606.6 million in 2015 and this is expected to reach USD 821.2 million by 2020, growing at a CAGR of 6.25%.

"The US is experiencing increased construction and expansion projects. There are few capacity expansion projects and new facilities being established. In July 2015, Alcoa acquired RTI International Metals, which will complement Alcoa's titanium products. In addition, Fisker plans to open its new factory in South California," says Bharath.

The report further states that favorable legislature, breakthrough technologies, and M&A are the key factors driving growth of foundry and forging robots market in the Americas.

In mid-2015, ABB inaugurated its first US robot manufacturing plant in Auburn Hills, US. As the US is one of ABB's largest industrial robot markets, the new plant is set to cater to the demand for robotic solutions in the US, Canada, and Mexico. The plant is set to produce industrial robots, which will find a wide variety of applications, including foundry and forging applications.