



General Motors to invest \$900 m in facilities



General Motors (Detroit) announced it is investing over \$900 million in three facilities. One of them is its Bedford casting facility in Bedford, Indiana. According to a report from WBIW, GM is investing \$37 million and will retain 45 jobs.

GM has invested over \$330 million in Bedford since 2010, according to the report.

"This investment in the future recognises the excellent workforce at Bedford Casting Operations," said Gareth Jolly, plant manager. "It also demonstrates GM's collaboration with our UAW and IBEW partners, which reflects how we continue to innovate and bring new powertrain solutions to our customers."

Europe's newest grey and ductile iron foundry to be opened in 2017



Cranfield Foundry is forecasted to begin production in 2017, after it held a ground-breaking ceremony in Probishtip, The Republic of Macedonia to mark the start of construction of a modern foundry.

The project was initiated in 2014 with the first steps being to build a team and find quality partners to ensure successful execution of this greenfield investment.

Designed for Cranfield Foundry by turnkey solutions provider GEMCO - the new facility will be able to produce grey iron castings of EN-GJL 150-350 and other related grades, along with ductile iron castings of EN-GJS 350-800 and other related grades.

The foundry equipment has been commissioned from some of the most well known suppliers in the industry. DISA and ABP will provide the key components of the foundry which will produce a wide range of products such as fittings, valves, decorative and other custom-made quality castings for customers in diverse industries such as automotive, agriculture, railway, construction, oil and refinery.

Dariusz Dziuba, the CEO of Cranfield Foundry, said: "The company's aim is to service customers from high-volume businesses in the Middle East and Europe by delivering on time, competitively priced, quality castings."

ASK Chemicals approves construction of Mexican production facility



ASK Chemicals has approved the construction of a Mexican production facility in the Monterrey area that will produce binders, refractory coatings, and riser sleeves for the growing Mexican foundry industry.

The facility will be strategically located in Monterrey in the wake of a thorough analysis of current and future foundry customers. The new plant will produce cold box and no bake binders, refractory based coatings, and EXACTCAST riser sleeves.

The new Mexican plant will complement ASK Chemicals' existing facilities in the United States, bringing its portfolio of foundry solutions alongside the Mexican foundries. ASK will co-locate development laboratories to bring the company's longstanding record of innovation closer to the growing Mexican market. The facility is due to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2017, with production commencing

immediately.

ASK Chemicals will install binder capacity in excess of 30,000 metric tonnes to fully meet all current and future growth of the Mexican market. The company's coatings plant will be built to produce 10,000 metric tonnes.

Given the strong growth of the Mexican casting market, the foundry supplier will install infrastructure for multiple riser sleeve machines with an initial capacity of more than 5,000,000 pieces.

Executive vice president (Americas), Luiz Totti said: "We are committed to the Mexican foundry industry and to providing it with an unmatched value proposition. The future of casting production in Mexico is surely bright, and ASK Chemicals is prepared and will be ready."

Casting production in Mexico has become increasingly attractive due to its favourable investment conditions - an increasingly well-prepared workforce, casting know-how/expertise, proximity to major markets (e.g. USA), and a growing accessibility to premium foundry consumables.

Several major OEMs are already present in Mexico, with more on the way. Also, forecasts predict automotive light vehicle production - a key casting indicator - to exceed five million units by 2023, a 48 percent increase.