



Wisconsin provide ovens to United Tool & Die Company for Heat Treating Aluminum

Wisconsin Oven Corporation announced the shipment of two industrial ovens to United Tool & Die Company in West Hartford, CT. An electrically heated draw batch oven (SDB oven) with a pitted manual quench tank will be used for aluminum solution heat treatment of parts. An electrically heated enhanced duty walk-in batch oven (EWN oven) will be used for aluminum aging and annealing of parts. The new equipment is replacing antiquated furnaces at the customer's facility that were difficult to keep certified and consumed a lot of power to heat. Due to space constraints and a very low ceiling, Wisconsin Oven designed both ovens with rear mounted heater houses and recirculation fans.

Bob Roberts and Rich Paquette of United Tool & Die Company were very instrumental in laying out the equipment with the goal of making it as easy as possible for the operators to use. They modified the quench tank by adding rails and a rolling load cart to create an efficient loading process for the operators. When the quenching process is complete there is an overhead hoist that is used to lift the product back onto the rolling load cart.

The standard draw batch oven has a maximum temperature rating of 1,250°F and

a work chamber of 3'W x 3'H x 7'L. A guaranteed temperature uniformity of +/-10° F at 500°F, 750°F, 900°F, and 1,000°F per AMS 2750E Class 2/Instrumentation Type C was verified through a nine point profile test conducted in an empty oven chamber under static operating conditions.

The enhanced duty walk-in bath oven has a maximum temperature rating of 800°F and work chamber dimensions of 6'W x 8'D x 5'H. A guaranteed temperature uniformity of +/-10° F at 300°F, 550°F, and 800°F per AMS 2750E Class 2/Instrumentation Type C was verified through a fifteen point profile test conducted in an empty oven chamber under static operating conditions.

Both industrial ovens utilize Eurotherm 3504 programmers, process high limits, and main line disconnects. They were fully factory tested and adjusted prior to shipment to help reduce installation and start-up times. A 150 point Quality Assurance check list was completed to ensure the equipment met all Wisconsin Oven quality standards. The industrial batch ovens are backed by Wisconsin Oven's Exclusive and Unprecedented 3-Year WOW warranty. This warranty covers all materials for all components (less wear items).

Rane (Madras) Ltd. to upgrade Kentucky's Die Casting factory

Chennai-based Rane (Madras) Ltd. plans to invest \$5.8 million in new equipment, tooling and upgrades to its Precision Die Casting factory in Russellville, Kentucky. The factory was purchased by the company earlier this year.

Rane Precision Die Casting manufactures high pressure aluminum die-cast steering and compressor components for the automotive industry. Its customers include automotive suppliers TRW, Nexteer Automotive, Mahle and JTEKT. The investment planned will cover the costs of new tools, machinery and refurbishment of existing equipment. Company leaders expect this to increase efficiency and machine uptime while lowering costs by reducing scrap.

"Rane is encouraged by the support provided by The Logan Economic Alliance for Development, the Logan Industrial Development Authority, the City of Russellville, Logan County, and the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development," said Harish Lakshman, Chairman of Rane Precision Die Casting Inc. "We are impressed with the quality of the workforce. Rane is confident of reviving the business back to profitability over the next few years. We look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with Russellville and Logan County." "Rane's recent investment in Logan County brings a welcome lift to southcentral Kentucky," said Governor Matt Bevin. "It demonstrates the impact that economic developers can have when matching the interests of local and international companies. Rane Precision Die Casting's investment will fuel the continued growth in our automotive industry and provide quality jobs for the region. We are grateful for their longstanding commitment to manufacturing in Kentucky." Rane (Madras), is a part of Rane Group, a global supplier of Steering and Suspension systems, friction materials, valve train components, occupant safety systems, die-casting products and aerospace-grade wiring harnesses. To encourage the investment and job retention in the community, the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority in June preliminarily approved the company for tax incentives up to \$1.2 mn through the Kentucky Reinvestment Act. The performance-based incentive allows the company to keep a portion of its investment over the agreement term through corporate income tax credits by meeting job retention and investment targets.

A&B Foundry receives \$143,000 fine after repeat violations



A&B Foundry, located in Franklin, Ohio, has been issued \$143,150 after a federal workplace safety and health inspection found workers exposed to the risks of amputation, hearing loss and respiratory damage.

OSHA pointed out the same hazards to A&B in 2012. In total, the regulatory body issued 12 repeated and two serious violations and one other-than-serious violation.

The inspection found a lack of safety guards, multiple violations of respiratory protection standards and allowed the use of

devices not capable of lifting loads within the rated capacity.

The company also did not train workers about noise hazards, evaluate them for noise exposure, nor did the company provide training on hazardous chemicals. In addition, workers were not required to use personal protective equipment including head and face protection, allowed use of damaged equipment and did not close electrical openings and junction boxes as required.

"A&B Foundry continues to maintain an environment where employees are exposed to serious noise, dangerous machinery and debilitating respiratory hazards," said Ken Montgomery, area director of OSHA's Cincinnati office.

"The company needs to re-evaluate its safety and health programs and ensure workers are provided the training and equipment necessary to protect them from injury and illness on the job."