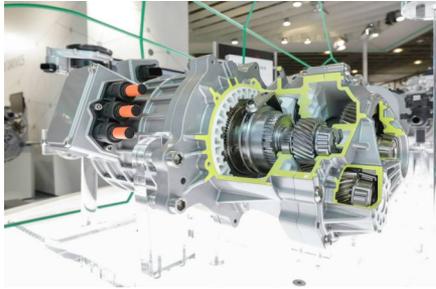




Foundry Update

GF Casting to supply components for e-Vehicles



GF Casting Solutions, a division of GF, will supply a large number of lightweight components for a new generation of electric vehicles in China.

The new contracts amount to approximately CHF 370 million and have been placed by Chinese and European manufacturers.

According to a news report, one major order amounts to CHF 235 million and contains light metal e-drive components for a completely newly developed e-vehicle platform from a well-known European car manufacturer. These lightweight parts will be produced at the Suzhou (China) plant of GF Casting Solutions as of 2019. This large contract is part of a whole series of new orders for e-

cars which has been placed in the last few months for a total value of approx CHF 370 million.

The high number of new orders underscores GF Casting Solutions' lightweight competence in the fast growing e-mobility market segment in China. Lightweight design is an important factor to improve the range of electric cars. Already 30 per cent of all worldwide orders obtained in 2018 by the division were for components and solutions for hybrid and electric cars. For the Chinese market, this ratio exceeds 50 per cent.

GF Casting Solutions is one of the world's leading solution providers and a technologically pioneering development partner and manufacturer of components for passenger cars, trucks, the aerospace and energy segment as well as industrial applications.

The division provides casting solutions in iron, aluminium, magnesium and super alloys at production plants in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Romania, China and the US. ■

Scottish foundry to restore Big Ben

A Scottish foundry has been given a key role in the restoration of Big Ben. Ballantine Castings, which is based in Bo'ness, West Lothian, is creating thousands of cast iron tiles to adorn the roof of the Elizabeth Tower, the structure that encases Britain's most famous clock.

The West Lothian factory, which almost closed four years ago is also casting hundreds of tonnes of iron tiles to replace decaying tiles on the roof of the Palace of Westminster. The work by the 200-year old foundry involves making exact copies of the originals and is set to take several years to finish. Speaking to the Herald, Ballantine Castings Director, Gavin Ballantine said: "Everyone knows Big Ben, and it is one of the most photographed structures in the world.

"We are working with a conservation contractor, we're not doing any installation. All the tiles are different sizes, we have to take originals from site, bring them here, hand carve the moulds and then make the castings. We are just glad to play our part." ■

Waupaca Foundry to establish Finishing Plant

Waupaca Foundry will invest \$4.3 million to establish a cleaning and finishing operation for ferrous castings in Ironwood, MI, noting high customer demand and the availability of labour in the Upper Peninsula location.

The castings will be produced at Waupaca's three foundries in Waupaca, WI. "Like many employers across the nation Waupaca Foundry is finding ways to overcome low unemployment and a shortage of skilled workers," stated CEO Mike Nikolai. "There simply are not enough workers to fill the open positions we have so we explored expansion in regions that had a solid base of talented workers."

Waupaca Foundry casts gray iron, ductile iron, austempered ductile iron, and compacted graphite iron for automotive, commercial vehicle, off-road and construction equipment, and industrial customers. In addition to the three plants in Waupaca, it has foundries in Marinette, WI, Tell City, IN, Etowah, TN, and Lawrenceville, PA. it also has a machining and assembly plant in Effingham, IL.

It is buying a 50,000-sq.-ft. operation in Ironwood, MI, for the new operation, and has hired 35 workers there to staff the operation. Waupaca Foundry was awarded a \$1.2-million Michigan Business Development Programme performance-based grant for the project. "The economy is strong and Waupaca Foundry is growing due to increased customer demand for cast and machined iron castings," stated EVP John Wiesbrock. "Opening a facility to handle cleaning and finishing of cast parts will allow us to meet customers' expectations in quality and delivery of their parts." ■