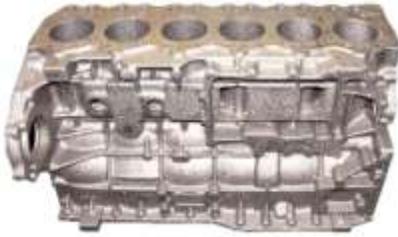




JMC Heavy Duty Vehicle introduces new Heavy Trucks



China's JMC Heavy Duty Vehicle Co. Ltd., a division of Jiangling Motors Corp., recently introduced a new heavy-duty truck for the Chinese market with two engine options, each one relying heavily on compacted graphite iron produced using SinterCast process control.

Sinter Cast AB licenses control technology used by foundries to produce CGI- a lightweight alternative to gray iron and aluminum used mainly for automotive diesel engines and cylinder blocks, and some gasoline engine blocks.

These new engines follow soon after Ford Motor Co. announced a 3.0-liter V6 diesel to be available later this year in its 2018 F-150. That new engine joins a 2.7-liter V6 EcoBoost® gasoline engine, also built on a SinterCast CGI block, as two options available to buyers of the F-150.

JMC has licensed the SinterCast process since 2013. Its 9.0- and 13.0-liter engine options for the new truck resulted from a joint venture with Ford Motor Co., which provides its own European vehicle and engine technology for manufacturing and distribution in China by JMC.

The CGI cylinder blocks and heads are produced at the ASIMCO International Casting Co., Ltd foundry in Shanxi, China.

The 9.0-liter engine's cylinder block and head are cast in CGI, while the 13.0-liter engine has a CGI cylinder head.

"We have supported the production of Ford's 9-liter cylinder block and head in Europe since 2007 and we now look forward to supporting JMC's series production in China," according to SinterCast president and CEO Dr. Steve Dawson. "The 13-liter cylinder head is a new product for us, and marks our tenth Sinter Cast-CGI engine in the Ford group."

In addition to performance, durability, and fuel economy, SinterCast said the new JMC engines would conform to China's CN5 emission regulations.

Diesel engines for cars, trucks, and industrial power applications represent a sizable portion of SinterCast production every year. For Q1 2017, the group reported its technology had been used to produce 2.0 million "engine equivalents" (each 'engine equivalent' represents 50 kg of CGI), making this the ninth consecutive quarter with 2.0 million or more engine equivalents of SinterCast CGI output worldwide.

China lends \$300mln to Serbia for railway project

Serbia's infrastructure ministry said it has signed an agreement with the Export-Import Bank of China for a loan worth \$297.6 million (269.2 million euro) for the overhaul of the Stara Pazova-Belgrade section of the railway connecting Serbia's capital to Budapest in Hungary.

The loan will be repaid in 20 years, including a five-year grace period, and the reconstruction works will begin this year, the Serbian infrastructure ministry said in a statement.

"The high-speed railway from Belgrade to Budapest is the most important project of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, because it is located on the main route from Greece's

Piraeus port to central Europe," infrastructure minister Zorana Mihajlovic said on the sidelines of the official loan-signing ceremony, as quoted in the statement.

The railway line is of strategic importance for Serbia, as it will become the fastest route for exports to EU countries, Mihajlovic said after the loan deal was signed in the presence of China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang and Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic.

Serbian citizens will travel from Belgrade to Novi Sad in less than an hour when the project is completed, Mihajlovic added.

China, Serbia and Hungary signed a memorandum of understanding for the reconstruction of the 370 km rail route in December 2014.

around one billion euros in global battery system production.

The investment doesn't quite rival Tesla's \$5 billion Gigafactory venture, as Bloomberg points out, but Daimler's plant is set to become one of the biggest battery factories in the world.

Although Daimler didn't give specifics on capacity, the plant will help Mercedes achieve its goal of introducing more than 10 new electric passenger cars by 2022. New electric vehicles will be grouped together under the EQ line, with the first model to enter production at the Mercedes-Benz plant in Bremen at the end of the decade. Others will be produced in Sindelfingen.

"The local production of batteries is an important success factor in our electric offensive and a crucial element in order to flexibly and efficiently serve the global demand for electric vehicles," said Markus Schäfer, member of the Divisional Board of Mercedes-Benz Cars, Production and Supply Chain, in a statement. "This makes our production network very well positioned for future mobility."

By 2025, Mercedes-Benz wants EVs to make up between 15 and 25 percent of its total unit sales.

Daimler unveils new battery plant

Daimler, the parent company of Mercedes-Benz, broke ground on its second battery plant in Kamenz, Germany. The new plant signals an effort to increase the efficiency of battery production as Mercedes-Benz prepares to introduce a slew of EVs over the next several years.

Scheduled to begin operation in mid-2018, the plant will quadruple the production and logistics area in Kamenz to a total of 80,000 square meters. Daimler is investing 500 million euros in this new plant, or roughly \$560 million at today's exchange rates, with a total investment of