



Foundry Update

Brillion receives grant to make way for Ariens plant



The city of Brillion has received a \$500,000 grant to support the redevelopment of the former Brillion Iron Works site.

The 145-acre site contains several buildings and will be redeveloped in two phases.

WEDC is contributing to the first phase, which focuses on a 70-acre parcel on the south side of the site which was bought by Ariens Company in October. Ariens has already begun to renovate a building there into a research and development facility.

"This building has been basically a warehouse for the

foundry," said Dan Ariens, Chairman and CEO. He added, "We gutted it, polished the floor, painted it white, you can see the ceilings, the walls are all white, put in brand new lighting so all that lighting gives us a real bright brand new manufacturing plant."

As a part of the deal, the city will build a new road and bridge crossing.

"We're very optimistic about the future of this site, and we expect the project will add tax base and also act as a catalyst to receive even more development in the area," WEDC CEO Mark Hogan said.

"We could not do this alone," Brillion Mayor Gary Deiter said. "We would be in debt for many, many years, because I don't think the city could take on the responsibility of tearing these buildings down and making a viable property for our future." Work is underway and is expected to be completed in late 2020.

Ariens says it already has 40 workers in its research and development facility, formerly known as Plant 3.

Ariens says it could eventually add up to 70. ■

McDonald Diecasting wins Award

McDonald Diecasting (MDL) has won the coveted 'Company Achievement' award with Cast Metals Federation, Best of British Casting Awards 2018.

This award win has successfully steered MDL to be seen as best manufacturer in the UK for high quality, hand finished die casting components for the home, medical and leisure sectors. MDL's purpose is believing in enhancing the human interaction with every product made, which is done by paying meticulous attention to every detail of manufacture and process ensuring the highest quality finish its customers expect to see and touch.

Mark Fisher, Managing Director at MDL commented: "This is an absolutely fantastic achievement and proud and honoured to receive



this prestigious award. It's been nearly 30 years since we've won an award and to be recognised by industry specialists as Best of British Casting is significant."

Mark continued: "MDL have worked extremely hard over the last 18 months with major changes, as well as working strongly with the Marketing department in creating a new vision within the company and aligning this with core company values as part of our business strategy. In addition this has allowed us to represent the company to new and existing

customers, provide materials and literature which we never had and also exhibit at key exhibitions which has generated great leads and revenue."

The Cast Metals Federation, Best of British Casting Awards took place in late November at Wolverhampton Grand Station to celebrate the best in the casting industry across the region and were sponsored by John Winter Foundry, LG Energy and Towergate Insurance.

Part of the successful Thomas Dudley Group, which has recently celebrated winning the Black Country Chambers 'Best Use of Technology' awards in 2017 and 2018, has delivered exceptional growth in recent years and as a world class manufacturer, is continuing to invest in infrastructure, technology and people. ■