

GLOBAL BUSINESS



Sandvik Coromant becomes new ISTMA global partner

Sandvik Coromant, Fair Lawn, New Jersey, announces that it has been named a member of the International Special Tooling & Machining Association's (ISTMA) new Global Partner Program. Established to stimulate development and competitiveness within the die and mold industry, the new program enables ISTMA to create strong partnerships with global suppliers that can best aid in the industry's development by providing knowledge, expertise, and cooperation. Sandvik Coromant is the first cutting tool supplier to join the Global Partner Program.

Sandvik Coromant recently partnered with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) to develop the NAIT Sandvik Coromant Centre for Machinist Technology in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. One of the pre-eminent institutes of technology in Canada, NAIT provides real world education in business, advanced technologies and skilled trades to students in 15 locations across Alberta, Canada, and in 23 countries around the world. The institute's new facility is almost three times the size of the old training space and will increase NAIT's apprenticeship training capacity by 60% - from 440 to 660 apprentices per year. www.sandvik.com

Chemical vapor deposition markets to grow worldwide

According to a new technical market research report, *Thin-Layer Deposition: CVD, Ion Implantation & Epitaxy (SMC027G)* from BCC Research, the global markets for chemical vapor deposition, ion implantation, and molecular beam epitaxy (MBE) will experience significant growth between 2008 and 2013.

CVD has the largest market of these technologies. The total CVD segment, including equipment, materials and services, was worth \$7.0 billion in 2007. This is expected to increase to \$7.3 billion by the end of 2008, and to \$11.8 billion in 2013, for a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.1%.

Ion Implantation and related ion equipment have the second largest market, worth \$2.6 billion in 2007. This will grow at a 4.5% CAGR through 2008 and then at a 10.1% rate by 2013 when the segment will be worth \$4.4 billion.

The MBE segment reached \$457.4 million in 2007 and is expected to increase to \$475.4 million by the end of 2008. By the end of 2013, the segment will be worth \$701.3 million, for a CAGR of 8.1%. www.bccresearch.com

10,000 armored cargo trucks to be built by BAE

The Pentagon will spend \$1.65 billion over the next two years on 10,000 armored cargo trucks for the U.S. Army, reports BAE Systems, Sealy, Texas. The contract includes an option to increase the worth of the deal up to \$2.2 billion for a total of 20,000. BAE will supply the Army with a new line of Medium Tactical Vehicles with the Long Term Armor Strategy, which features a removable armor package that can be put on or taken off based on the threat. Today's FMTVs operating in Iraq and Afghanistan have their armor plating permanently attached.

The LTAS cargo vehicles will be produced at BAE Systems' facility in Sealy, Texas, and Cincinnati, Ohio. Deliveries of the initial \$1.65 billion contract are expected

BRIEFS

Alcan Extruded Products, part of Alcan Engineered Products -

a business unit of **Rio Tinto Alcan**, announces a total order of 88 units for the production of car body shells for the Cobra tram in Zurich, Switzerland. Following the successful four-year development phase and testing of six pilot units of the 37-meter (120-foot) vehicles, the tram units are scheduled to be delivered to the Zurich Public Transport Authorities in Switzerland by mid-2009. <http://www.riotinto.com/riotintoalcan>

ArcelorMittal has signed an agreement to acquire **Bayou Steel**, a producer of structural steel products with facilities in LaPlace, Louisiana, and Harriman, Tennessee, for \$475 million. Bayou Steel is an independent producer of medium and light structural steel and bar size products. The Louisiana facility produces billets, equal leg angles, unequal leg angles, flats, channels, standard beams and wide flange beams.

www.arcelormittal.com

Australians boost minerals industry research & development

The Australian minerals industry's R&D effort received a major boost with the launch in Canberra of CSIRO's Minerals Down Under National Research Flagship. The purpose of the program is to help the industry become more efficient and environmentally sustainable.

The industry currently contributes 8.9% of Australia's GDP and generates 50% of Australia's total exports. Minerals Council of Australia Chief Executive, Mitchell Hooke, says the industry would work closely with CSIRO and partner research agencies to ensure the Flagship achieved its overarching goal of assisting the industry to exploit new resources with an estimated 'in-situ' value of a trillion dollars by 2030.

<http://www.csiro.au/news/MineralsDownUnderFlagshipLaunch>.

BASF has announced its plans to expand its offerings for the automotive industry in India with investments in plants and technology. The company will build a new engineering plastics compounding plant at its existing site in Thane, which is expected to come on stream by the second half of 2009. www.basf.com

Bekaert announces that it has been certified according to the ISO/TS 16949 standard for its high quality automotive DLC coatings production plant in Bons-en-Chablais, France. The ISO/TS 16949 standard is designed specifically for suppliers in the automotive industry. It applies to the design, development, production throughout the supply chain, and to the installation and servicing of automotive-related products. www.bekaert.com

Bodycote International plc in the United Kingdom has acquired three U.K. companies: **Plasma & Thermal Coatings Ltd.**, **Greenhey Engineering Services**, and **NPE Innotek Ltd.** They will join the Metallurgical Coatings division of Bodycote's Thermal Processing Group. Plasma & Thermal Coatings provides plasma spray, arc spray, and flame spray coatings. Greenhey's services include thermal spraying, ceramic coatings, and a machine shop. NPE Innotek makes tools and equipment in hardmetal, all grades of tools, and high-speed steel, including PM tool steels, and advanced materials. www.bodycote.com

Bombardier Inc.'s fiscal first-quarter net profit nearly tripled as revenue rose 21%, prompting the company to reinstate a quarterly dividend of 2.5 Canadian cents per share. In the quarter ended April 30, the Montreal maker of trains and airplanes posted net profit of \$226 million, or 12 U.S. cents per share, compared with \$79 million, or four U.S. cents a year earlier. Revenue rose 21% to \$4.8 billion. www.bombardier.com

DuPont plans to invest approximately \$150 million to expand and upgrade manufacturing facilities in Europe, the United States, and Asia to meet strong demand for its specialty ethylene copolymers in photovoltaics, packaging, and automotive markets, as well as for new infrastructure in emerging economies. www.dupont.com

Evrax Group S.A. has completed the acquisition of IPSCO Inc.'s Canadian assets. To ensure consistency in the North American marketplace, Evrax is also pleased to announce the company's various operations in the U.S. and Canada will operate under the name, Evrax Inc. NA. www.evrax.com

OAO Severstal has made a proposal to Esmark Incorporated to acquire all of the outstanding shares of common stock of Esmark for \$17.00 per share in cash. Severstal says it is best positioned to optimize the value of Esmark by creating complementary product lines, geographical alignment, and operational synergies. Together, the combined company could become one of the North American leaders in flat rolled steel products.

OAO Severstal has reached a binding agreement in which Severstal will acquire all outstanding equity of WCI. Together with Severstal's current U.S. operations in Dearborn, Michigan, Columbus, Mississippi, and the recently acquired Sparrows Point in Baltimore, Maryland, WCI will grow the Company's North American leadership in the high-quality flat-rolled steel segment.

Pratt & Whitney has selected **Goodrich Corp.** to provide complete nacelle systems for its new Geared Turbofan engine for both the Mitsubishi Regional Jet and the Bombardier C-Series aircraft. The nacelle includes the inlet, fan cowl, thrust reverser, exhaust system, and engine mounts. www.goodrich.com

Republic Engineered Products announces that it will invest approximately \$20 million in a precision sizing mill and related equipment for its Lackawanna steel rolling facility in Blasdell, N.Y. The Friedrich Kocks company of Germany will supply a 370++ RSB/5 precision sizing mill. www.republicengineered.com

Rio Tinto Alcan is going forward with an accelerated pre-feasibility study for two additional phases to the AP50 pilot plant for which preparatory work has begun in Saguenay, Quebec. The study will evaluate the addition of another 140,000 metric tons of capacity to the pilot plant. Representing a potential investment of \$2 billion to \$2.5 billion, the expanded plant would become the platform for future technological developments. The study will also consider a possible subsequent expansion of up to a total of 400,000 metric tons. www.riotinto.com

Schott Solar has inaugurated its new plant for solar receivers, a key component of solar thermal parabolic trough power plants, near Seville, Spain. The plant's annual production volume corresponds to a power plant capacity of up to 200 megawatts, doubling its receiver manufacturing capacity. By the end of 2008, Schott Solar plans to double the plant's capacity. www.schott.com

ThyssenKrupp VDM GmbH has constructed a new 5000-ton forging line in Unna, Germany, and has also expanded its remelting capacity there. www.thyssenkrupp.com

to be complete by February 2010. If the Army decides to increase the contract to \$2.2 billion, those additional 10,000 trucks would be delivered by November 2010. The Army currently has about 48,000 FMTV trucks and trailers in service. www.baesystems.com

Spirit to produce A350 XWB fuselage structure

Spirit AeroSystems Inc., Wichita, Kan., has signed a contract with Airbus Industries to design and produce a major composite fuselage structure for the A350 XWB (Xtra Wide-Body) aircraft. Spirit will design and manufacture the Section 15 center fuselage frame section, a composite structure that will be approximately 65 feet long and 20 feet wide, weighing nearly 9000 pounds.

Spirit and the State of North Carolina have reached an agreement to begin implementation of a multi-phased project to create a Composites Manufacturing Center for aircraft parts and assemblies in North Carolina. A new facility will be constructed in North Carolina's Global TransPark to accommodate new work packages, and will house both design and build processes. It will initially employ 500 people, with plans to grow employment to 1000 when all five phases are fully implemented. The project was facilitated by a package of state and local incentives.

Construction of the new facility in North Carolina will begin later this year, with operations expected to commence in 2010. Portions of work on the A350 XWB are also planned for Spirit Wichita and at the new Spirit Malaysia facility, which is expected to be operational in 2009. www.spiritaero.com