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NETCASTER

ICI EXPO EDITION Autumn 2009, Issue 21

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Buyers/Designers
of metal castings

buyCASTINGS cuts
costs and adds value

ENTER

Foundries

Reduce cost,
access new mar-
kets

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Suppliers

to foundries
buyCASTINGS
expands markets

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TACFAB
Project



buyCASTINGS On INC500 List One of the Fastest Growing Companies TWO YEARS IN A ROW!

*"We are honored to make the mark," said Neil Chaudhry,
Chief Operating Officer of buyCASTINGS.com, Inc.*

buyCASTINGS.com, Inc. has experienced rapid growth over the last four years, filling a niche by doing the right thing for buyers in the metal castings market-by bringing them choice, convenience and competitive costs. Despite pressures on the economy, buyCASTINGS has expanded its client base and sales revenue by providing an effective marketplace for castings and by providing technical casting solutions to demanding customer applications. In 2009, Inc. magazine has, for the second year in a row, recognized buyCASTINGS as one of the top 500 fastest growing private companies in America.

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FOPAT CASTING PATTERNS NOW IN PRODUCTION

After two years of R&D and fine-tuning, the FOPAT (FOam PATtern) pilot production plant is finally in place. We are making production parts and we are finally taking production orders. There are already 48+ interested foundries/customers that have expressed interest for various applications (including investment casting patterns, lost foam patterns, and other casting processes). Over two dozen foundries have ordered samples and are evaluating FOPAT for their use before placing an order. In addition, we are pleased to report that five customers have placed a purchase order.

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The Economy & The Markets - What's Next

Perspective By Neil Chaudhry (written Sept. 14, 2009)

Is the recession over? Are we going to see another major financial institution go under and drag down the market? Are there more "shoes to fall" in our fragile economy? Are we out of the woods yet? Are the markets headed up, up, and away? What about inflation? What will the commodities and metal prices do next year?

All good questions, being asked by our members and others. We have all seen our investments go down, house prices fall dramatically, and business way down in the past 12-months. **So, let's look into our crystal ball and see what's possibly next on the horizon and past the horizon:**

Is the recession over? Yes, by this December, we should be out of recession. We should see some growth next year; The first half may actually be stronger due to two factors: (1) The government stimulus has still not worked through the system; this will kick in early next year; and, (2) The inventory rebuilding has sparked a major up tick in manufacturing activity in the past few months, this will continue and may accelerate in the next 3-9 months. All these factors should be good news for the market and for our mfg and metal casting businesses.

Are we going to see another major financial institution go under and drag down the market? Probably not. I think, the worst of the financial storm is over. It was a "level 4 hurricane" storm that no one saw coming. But when we look back, all the signs were building but were ignored: low interest rates for a long time + push by government to lend to people to increase home ownership + really shady lending practices (to get people into mortgages that had negative amortizations and artificially low monthly payments). All this build up into a huge consumer debt bubble. People borrowed against their home and spent the money on whatever to live. The bubble was building up for years - probably ten years before it finally burst when too many loans were going into foreclosure and the institutions holding these bundled loan packages had leveraged 40:1, hence the collapse of such places as Lehman brothers and bankruptcy filings of Washington Mutual and Countrywide Credit.

This was the so-called sub-prime mess. I think we are past that. The government has flooded the system with liquidity and taken steps to manage the failures.

(There are a plenty of failures going on every week but they are on a smaller, controlled basis ie the banks that are too big to fail are not going to fail given the current measures in place.)

Are there more "shoes to fall"? Are we out of the woods yet? There will be some commercial bank issues as the foreclosures in office and commercial buildings go up but this will be manageable. So, we do see light at the end of the tunnel. Next year should be much better than the last 12-months.

Are the markets headed up, up, and away? In the near-term no but longer-term yes. I believe, we as a nation and certainly as a media are way too negative. So, if you are a contrarian, that's good news! Too many people are yelling 'fire' still when it comes to the economy and the markets. So, I believe, we are sideways to slightly down short term and higher in 2010. Technology will be back in vogue and more importantly in demand such that earnings will be strong and profits up.



What about inflation? Most of the media and many of the pundits are worried about the fed flooding liquidity leading to huge inflation in the future. I say, probably not. The only way that's going to lead to inflation is if people borrow like crazy and lenders lend like crazy...we all know that ain't happening for a while, a long while. So, money sitting in banks is not going to cause inflation. Federal spending may cause inflation but if the consumers and corporation are cutting back and fed is spending, no inflation.

What will the commodities and metal prices do next year? If the dollar continues to fall, which there is a good chance, then the gold and oil prices will trend up but I do not see spikes up in commodities prices like we saw in 2007-2008. Demand in China and India will continue to push prices of raw materials higher but only speculators will cause the prices to spike up AND down. So, stable to somewhat higher.

Bottom Line: Demand worldwide will pick up leading to good economy here and decent markets everywhere.

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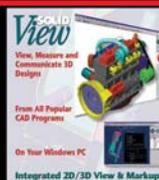
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Members In the News

INVESTCAST-Fastest Foundry on the Planet

Since 1981 Investcast (located in Minneapolis, MN) has built an investment casting foundry with talent, innovation and good old fashioned hard work. When we, at buyCASTINGS, need quality prototype castings at a reasonable price and in less than two weeks, we know we can count on Bill Walker Jr. and his team of experts to come through for us. Investcast, an ISO 9001:2000 certified facility, serves the die cast, extrusion, investment casting, sand casting, forging and complex metal stamping industries, supplying metal prototypes in days without tooling. They also have the capability to perform part inspection and layouts with their 6-axis part-to-file CMM, hardness testing, and chemical analysis with their on-site spectrometer. As part of their expansion program in 2009, Investcast has built a machining operation to be able to supply their customers with fully finished castings, offering even more value than before. Projected date of completion is late October.

buyCASTINGS is looking forward to continuing our relationship with Investcast, growing our businesses together by helping casting buyers control costs, insure high quality, and on-time delivery.

buyCASTINGS.com AWARDED DLA PHASE II CONTRACT

buyCASTINGS.com has been awarded a contract for a federally funded program, DLA Phase II, totaling \$777K in Cost Share over 18 months, which will seek to use innovative tooling techniques and advanced pattern materials to reduce costs and lead times for discrete-parts manufacturing of cast metal components.

Continued from page 1 **buyCASTINGS On INC500 List**

"In addition to seeing growth in our casting sales revenues, we are also seeing the returns on other strategic initiatives and investments, such as technology commercialization and government services," says Bob Dzuga, President of buyCASTINGS.

In order to accommodate buyCASTINGS' growth in staff and add manufacturing capability to the operation, buyCASTINGS expanded to a 14,000 sq. ft. facility in Miamisburg, OH. Housed there is a TACFAB Technology Demonstration Facility for the Army, a mobile foundry that will provide quick turnaround capability for cast metal parts. buyCASTINGS also continues to spin-off companies, the latest one being FPI or FOPAT Production Inc. (www.FOPAT.com), which is commercializing a proprietary foam pattern material that saves money and improves performance for the investment casting industry.

New Additions to the buyCASTINGS.com Team

Mr. Harald Rutkowski joined the buyCASTINGS team as Program Manager and accountant on government projects. Harald has held consulting positions working on client projects and held the position of Senior Financial & Accounting Analyst at Dayton Power & Light, Dayton, OH. While at DP&L, he guided installation and upgrade of Oracle financial software, tying together 150 operations, and improving accuracy and efficiency of financial tracking and reporting. Harald maintains his affiliations with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Mr. Travis Westendorf joined the FOPAT, Inc. team this March to support the opening of the new manufacturing plant. Travis has a B.S. in

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FOPAT

New Product

Patented Foam Investment Casting Patterns

- Smooth Surface
- Excellent Dimensional Predictability
- Reduce Scrap (Wax)
- Energy-efficient
- Cost-effective
- Autoclave May Be Eliminated



"WE'VE WAITED 5,000 YEARS FOR THIS!"

OUTSOURCE YOUR WAX ROOM!

Call Nick at 937-272-2709 or visit:

FOPAT.COM

FOPAT PRODUCTION, INC.

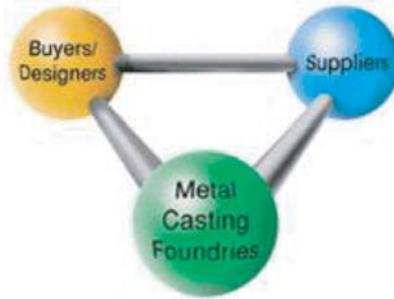


YOUR ONE STOP SOURCE FOR ALL METAL CASTINGS!

Access the Largest Universe of Pre-qualified Metal Casters

882 Participating Foundries 498 Participating Suppliers

- All Casting Types
- All Casting Processes
- Rapid Prototypes
- Rapid Tooling
- Design / Engineering



Cuts Cost, Saves Time

- Request multiple quotes from pre-qualified foundries
- Place orders and use the secure concurrent engineering site at no cost
- Realize cost savings by transforming fabrications to lower cost castings



Continued from Page 1 FOPAT CASTING PATTERNS

When wax fails to perform--sink problems, core cracking during injection, shell cracking, weight issues, etc.--FOPAT is being used as a remedy. In the second quarter of 2009, FOPAT Production Inc. produced 200 patterns and sent them to our foundry partner, EPS, to cast hinges for the MRAP vehicle. FPI also produced patterns for various commercial, defense and medical device manufacturers. Largest pattern to date was a valve body with dimensions of 19"x13"x10". An 18" dia. X 6 in. thick impeller tool was injected recently with results forthcoming.

20 patterns more cost effectively than other RP materials. To receive your free copy of the presentation showing ways to reduce tooling costs, expedite prototype jobs, and use FOPAT for small lot production jobs, please submit your name and address and we'll be glad to send it to you.



Bob Dzegan, president of buyCASTINGS, presented a paper entitled "Novel Approach to Production of Investment Casting Patterns Using SLA Patterns" for the 3DSUG group in Orlando, FL in the spring. He was able to demonstrate that FOPAT can add value to an RP service bureau with its ability to produce 5 to

If you would like to discuss a unique or difficult application or obtain a quote for your next development or production job, then contact Nick Cannell @ 937-272-2709 or ncannell@fopat.com.

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New Additions to buyCASTINGS.com

Mechanical Engineering from The University of Dayton and has 16 years experience in the automotive industry primarily in injection molding and RIM. Prior to FOPAT, Travis was the Engineering Manager at Dayton Manager at Dayton Polymeric Products, where he gained valuable experience in Product Development, Program Management, Processing, and Tool Design as related to the polyurethane industry.

Mr. Tim Large joined buyCASTINGS.com and FOPAT Productions Inc. in September and will be involved in the sales, business development, and marketing efforts of the organization as a Technical Sales Representative.

He has over 20 years of experience and solid qualifications in sales, management, project management, business development, product marketing, procurement, quality policy & procedure documentation, process engineering, and ISO quality management systems assessment experience working directly with customers in both manufacturing and service industries throughout the United States and worldwide.

Tim is experienced with integrated process improvement methods and has successfully demonstrated the implementation of Lean Six Sigma, ISO standards and Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for quality management within various organizations, which helped drive and sustain the goals and objectives of those companies.



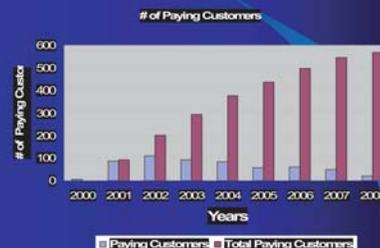
He has served as Chairman for the Dayton Section of the American Society for Quality (ASQ) and held the position of Chair on the Board of Examiners for the Dayton Area Quality Excellence Award.

Tim's education includes a BA in Management from Antioch University-McGregor, Lead Assessor certification training in 2007 through IRCA (International Register of Certificated Auditors), and recently completed the Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Certification program from Villanova University and plans to sit for the LSSBB certification exam later this year.

buyCASTINGS by the Numbers

- 906+ Foundries Worldwide
- 1970+ Buyers Worldwide
- 516+ Suppliers to Foundry Industry
- Average 100,000 "hits" per month
- 100% Focus on the Metal Casting Industry

Growing Customer Base



What customers are saying...

"We come to you because we think of you as the castings people." Procurement Manager, OEM, Southern USA

"All in all we liked what we saw and look forward to your quote." Defense Manufacturer, Northeast USA

"Everyone at FOPAT has been very responsive and easy to work with." Foundry Process Engineer, IL

"Thanks for the great service and speedy delivery of my castings." Government Procurement Engineer, Northeast USA

Visit Us at These Upcoming Tradeshows

October 11-14, 2009

Investment Cast Institute, 56th Annual Tech Expo
 Indianapolis, IN
 Booth# 51

December 1-3, 2009

Defense Manufacturing Conference
 Orlando, FL

Dec 8-10, 2009

PowerGen International
 Las Vegas, NV
 Booth # C4-632

March 20-23, 2010

AFS Cast Expo
 Orlando, FL

April 24-29, 2010

3D Systems North America
 Stereolithography Users Group
 Santa Fe, NM

May 18-20, 2010

SME Rapid
 Anaheim, Ca

TACFAB PROJECT LAUNCHED

TACFAB First Pour On-Demand Cast Metal Production System



Construction of an On-Demand Cast Metal Production System for the Army is Now Underway

After two years of brainstorming, planning, and waiting, Feb. 2009 the Technology Demonstration Facility was launched at buyCASTINGS. TDF will house the Army's project to construct and deploy TACFAB - a mobile system to quickly produce parts on demand where needed and when needed. The TACFAB system will contain laser scanning, xray spectrometer, CAD stations, rapid prototyping in the Engineering Complex. In the Production Complex, we will have no-bake mold making, induction melting, shot-blasting and heat-treating capabilities.

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