

The World Investment Casting Market

Prague 1994



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Presented at the European Conference on Investment Casting, Prague, Czech Republic, 1994
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INTRODUCTION

This EICF Conference has given us the opportunity of presenting a Seminar reviewing some of the major investment casting areas throughout the World. During the introduction, I plan to present some general data that considers the situation in the major markets of the World at the beginning of 1994.

Following on from this I shall call on several knowledgeable people within the industry to make a brief presentation about the investment casting industry in their country or countries they know well.

It is hoped that as a result of the data presented and during the general discussion periods we can consider how the industry may develop into the future.

THE WORLD INVESTMENT CASTING MARKET APPROXIMATE TURNOVER US\$3.6 BILLION

At the beginning of 1994 the World Investment Casting Industry has a turnover of approximately US\$3.6 billion for the major markets of North America, Europe and Asia. I stress, however, that these figures do not include data from some of the Eastern European Nations, the old USSR and China. Also, it must be emphasised that these figures are based on turnover and not on tonnage of castings produced. The approximate percentage split of World turnover of US\$3.6 Billion to different areas is shown in Figure 1.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT CASTING MARKET APPROXIMATE TURNOVER US\$970 MILLION

In early 1994 the approximate turnover of the European Investment Casting Industry was US\$970 million. The approximate percentage split into different areas is shown in Figure 2.

It is interesting to note that within the UK roughly 60-65% of the turnover figure is produced by documented aerospace castings, whereas in France and Germany the figure is lower at a combined figure of roughly 50%.



Information has not been included for Eastern Europe as turnover data is still difficult to quantify. However, the discussion period may offer more data on this area.

ASIAN INVESTMENT CASTING MARKET APPROXIMATE TURNOVER US\$540 MILLION

At the beginning of 1994 the approximate turnover of the Asian investment casting industry was 540 million US Dollars. The approximate percentage split into different areas is shown in Figure 3.

Japan is still by far the largest contributor to the total known Asian market. Until now approximately 15-20% of Japan's turnover is made up of documented or aerospace castings. The markets in Taiwan and Korea are almost entirely non-documented or commercial. During the past few years, a number of companies have moved or are considering moves to lower cost areas such as Thailand and Malaysia. We also know that China has a large investment casting market but unfortunately we do not have turnover data to include in this chapter.

NORTH AMERICAN INVESTMENT CASTING MARKET APPROXIMATE TURNOVER \$1910 MILLION

The North American market has the largest total share of the overall World market for investment casting. Its share is approximately 53% of the World figure of \$3.6 billion indicated earlier.

Within North America the market is dominated by the USA, which contributes to roughly 95% of the total North American turnover. The approximate percentage split into different areas is shown in Figure 4. It may be interesting to highlight that within the total turnover figure for the USA, a level of approximately 60-65% relates to documented or aerospace castings.

CONCLUSION

The data presented represents information at the beginning of 1994. As we know a number of World markets have declined over the past few years and it is difficult to make a prediction for the second part of 1994 and into the future. It is hoped, however, the information and data presented by the next series of speakers will help to assess the current state of the industry and how it should develop into the future.

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