

WAX MATTERS

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Wax & Core Workshop

Suppliers have a responsibility to pass on their knowledge and experience to both current and future generations of engineers. With this aim in mind and a focus on the primary operations of the investment casting process and "Best Practice" in the industry, the workshop was designed to improve understanding of the issues surrounding the manufacture, use and removal of ceramic cores.

Blayson hosted the event in a combined initiative with **Carpenter Certech** and **LBBC Technologies** in the Conference Suite at Blayson's Cambridge production facility on 19th July.



Intended to be of benefit to both experienced and especially for young/newly qualified production and process engineers, the workshop centred on the practical issues. With the growth in the use and application of ceramic cores in investment castings this is seen as extremely important. Combined with the increasing complexity of internal passages and the ability to cast net shape monolithic components, the successful injection of the ceramic core in the wax pattern and removal of the ceramic core from the casting

are paramount to the viability of the cast component.

Presentations were made by all three companies which illustrated the interdependence all have on each other, including most importantly of all, with the customer! Keith Howells covered 'Ceramic Core Manufacture and Use'. Howard Pickard explained the options for Core Removal, Dave Bond and Phil Hancock the 'Manufacture, Testing and Use of Wax'.

A tour of the wax manufacturing and quality facilities at Blayson led by Operations Director Keith Batchelor and Operations Manager Gavin Starr followed.



Attended by over 30 delegates representing leading foundries mainly from the UK, the workshop was regarded as a success.

The idea resulted from discussion between Ron Williams, MD of Blayson, and Keith Howells, recently retired as MD of Certech, and their view that many customer issues tend to be dealt with in individual meetings with the supply chain and that an integrated approach could offer great benefits. It would additionally allow a reciprocal learning opportunity for the suppliers from their customers.

The preparation work by the 3 companies drew out some fresh thinking about the role and use of their individual products that has already led to improved understanding. Certainly on the wax front the resulting new ideas, tests and process controls will lead to benefits, not only to the use of wax with cores, but on improved injection of all parts.

(Wax & Core Workshop cont.)

It is planned to hold a second workshop in the near future and any investment casting foundries interested in attending should contact Richard Hirst at Blayson, rdohirst@blayson.com

Kdynium Upgrade Wax Technology

Kdynium, the well known Czech foundry have signed an agreement with Blayson to help them with an upgrade in their wax technology. Currently using a tar oil based wax material Kdynium are limited on the range and dimensional accuracy of castings they can manufacture.



The decision has been made by Managing Director Josef Sustek (pictured centre right above) to change to a modern formulation. This represents an exciting opportunity for Blayson's technical support team to assist this major producer with the change and improve their casting quality.

Papers at EICF Conference

Blayson presented 2 papers at the EICF Conference in Bilbao in May.

Dave Bond explained 'How the Properties & Use of Wax can affect Foundry Performance'.

This introduced some radical new thinking on wax performance and injection characteristics, importantly identifying causes of faults and their cures. The analysis of ash and the relationship with inclusions in castings was another salient point.

Sales & Marketing Manager Richard Hirst led the session reviewing 'World Investment Casting Markets'. This included presentations by Scott Hanson on behalf of the Investment Casting Institute, Dr Zhigang Lu, China Foundry Association, Junichi Take-Uchi representing the Japan Foundry Society and ModTech MD Kishan Gohil updating the position with regard to India.

Copies of both Blayson papers can be downloaded from the 'Library' page at :

www.investmentcastingwax.com

Organisational Changes

As part of the continuing programme of development with an eye to the future Blayson has made some important changes to the management structure.



Pictured above, Keith Batchelor has been appointed Operations Director and Gavin Starr has been promoted to the role as Operations Manager. As a result there have been changes in responsibility for other production team members.

Director & General Manager Dave Morson commented "These changes are against the background of increased demand for products and associated expansion plans, particularly with regard to injected parts. They are intended to improve customer service levels both now and into the future".

Full details of the revised organisational structure can be obtained by contacting Dave Morson davemorson@blayson.com

New Faces in Sales

We are pleased to announce that **Jessica Parker** has joined Blayson as Sales Office Administrator replacing Kelie Lee who left recently to pursue new opportunities. Jess will be the prime contact for all sales related enquiries and her direct number is 01223 204052, email jessicaparker@blayson.com

In a move to strengthen the team further **Laura Hubbard** has been recruited. Laura's organising skills will be of benefit especially with regard to customer related events and visits.

Awards



Mark Vrabel (left above) was awarded a well merited 2nd place medal by the European Investment Casters Federation for his paper on 'New Methods for Analysing Inorganic Residues in Investment Casting Wax'. This excellent piece of work was entered by Blayson into the competition for 'Young Engineer Best Paper' at the 50th anniversary conference at Bilbao, Spain, in May.

At the same ceremony **Long Service awards** were made to Brian Backshall, 20 years, and Elisa Böhler and Derren Foster for 5 years.

