

WAXMAGAZINE

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Germany's VDG visits Blayson

Blayson was honoured to host a meeting of the 'Ceramics and Wax Working Group' of Germany's important investment casting organisation, the 'VDG' on April 18th. Under the leadership of Dr Franz-Josef Feikus and Dirk Franzen of the German institute there were 18 delegates representing many of Germany's leading investment casting companies.

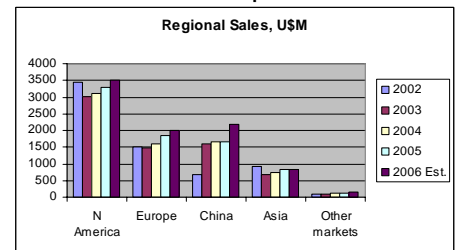


Commencing on the previous evening with a guided walking tour of some of Cambridge's famous colleges, the programme consisted of technical papers on the 'Manufacture, Testing and Quality Control of Wax Products' and 'Understanding Wax Injection Technology'. This was followed by a tour of wax production and the Technical Centre.

World Investment Casting Markets Update in Cairo and Birmingham

The Commercial Forum of the cmf in Birmingham and the opening of the CMRDI investment casting facility in Cairo within a week of each other both presented opportunities for Blayson to present its well known update of the World Investment Casting statistics.

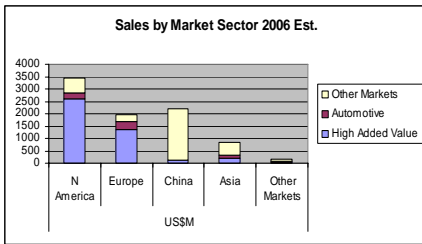
According to the provisional figures available from the Caef/cmf, JFS, ICI, CFA, EICF and industry sources, global investment casting sales for 2006 reached US\$8,600M, an 11% increase compared to 2005.



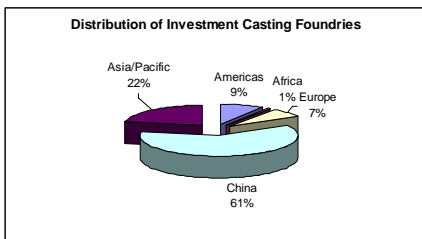
Whilst North America remains the largest single producer its market share has fallen from over 50% only a few years ago to 41% today. This is in some part due to more information from other regions but largely due to the increase in sales from China. Notably this means that China has now overtaken Europe in annual sales value and that Asia in total represents over a third of total investment casting sales.

Looking at sales by markets sector it's noticeable that 'High Added Value' sales dominate in

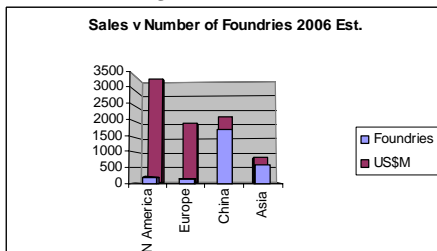
N America and Europe, where the 'Automotive' sector also has a strong and measurable percentage. Chinese sales are dominated by commercial castings and whilst there is a large and growing production of 'Automotive' components the figures are not available to quantify them.



With greater information gleaned in the past year on the global distribution of investment casting foundries the following revised picture emerges.



However comparing sales value per country with the number of foundries shows a different facet. The 'High Added Value' sales achieved in N America and Europe generate much better returns than achieved in China and Asia in general.



In order to understand this better and to try and identify and measure trends and shifts a 'Sales Value Index' has been produced which demonstrates

changes in average sales values achieved in different regions in the recent past. Whilst N America and Europe can claim success in increasing the value achieved through the higher sale values of their products, some of the increased value indicated is due to the transfer of lower value castings to China and India.

Full details of the review can be obtained by emailing Richard Hirst rdohirst@blayson.com

Next Ceramic Core Workshop

Planning is underway for a repeat of the successful collaboration between Blayson, Carpenter Certech and LBBC Technologies for a second workshop on the use of ceramic cores, wax injection, and core removal.

The workshop will be aimed principally at European foundries this time and will take place on Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th September 2007 at Cambridge.

This time the workshop will include a contribution from Blade Tooling Ltd, a leading UK toolmaker.

Tours of both Blayson and Carpenter Certech production units will be included.

For more information or to request an invitation to the workshop contact

rdohirst@blayson.com

Egypt's 'Lost' Wax process

Egypt is one of the countries credited with the birth of the lost wax process some 6000 years ago. At that time Egypt's skilled artisans produced wonderful jewellery and artefacts for the pharaohs. It seems somewhat

incongruous therefore to consider that today the process has virtually ceased to be used as an industrial process.

Under the leadership of Professor Adel Nofal the Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute (CMRDI) based at Helwan, Cairo, has built an industrial scale investment casting facility to aid a restart of the process.

The facility was officially opened on the 12th of February 2007 as part of a 2 day international conference attended by over 100 delegates. Papers were presented by an impressive list of speakers representing specialist institutions and companies from across the globe.

A degree of success for Rom



A student in Telecommunications and Computer Networks and with an industrial placement as part of his two-year course at the Institute of Technology in Brittany, Romuald Baron 'Rom' recently carried out his placement at Blayson developing I.T. systems. Rom spent three months working in the different departments of the company and designed two databases for the laboratory. His experience at Blayson was highly beneficial, both for Rom and for Blayson.