

WAX MATTERS

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Bruce Phipps CEO of MPI Inc is pleased to announce that Blayson Olefines Ltd is to represent MPI in the UK for the sale of their market leading wax preparation & conditioning, injection and pattern assembly equipment. This change follows the decision of Brian Ludlow to retire after many successful years as MPI's UK representative.



In bringing together two leading companies with world class expertise in wax pattern production this exciting new relationship will deliver real benefits to the UK investment casting industry.

Both companies' philosophy is to work in partnership with their customers to bring practical benefits in wax use and pattern production.

Servicing & Spares

Whilst direct contact with MPI via email/phone will remain available to handle customer enquiries and concerns, changes to servicing for MPI equipment mean that 2 UK based engineers have been appointed. As a result customers can expect a speedier response to any regular servicing or breakdown needs.

It is also intended to hold a strategic stock of spare parts at Cambridge to further improve service levels.

With 3 MPI injection presses installed and working producing injected parts, Blayson is able to offer potential customers an opportunity to trial both machine capabilities and wax materials on-site at Cambridge. With the current pressure on injection capacity this is proving very useful to European foundries enabling trials to take place without any interruption to production schedules.

More information on MPI equipment can be obtained by contacting Blayson Director & General Manager Dave Morson davemorson@blayson.com

New Wax Developments will benefit Environment

The EICF Workshop held at Aachen in April focused on new developments in the investment casting process.

Accordingly it presented the perfect opportunity for Blayson's Technical Director Dave Bond to announce some innovations in wax materials.

Traditionally industry designs and produces materials with functionality as the prime goal, and any environmental impact as a secondary consideration. Today though more demanding environmental legislation and costs are forcing a change in emphasis.

Accordingly Blayson is researching some specific initiatives to deliver both improved injection performance whilst minimising any environmental impact on recycling, whether carried out at Blayson, or on-site at the foundry.

Among these new wax materials being developed and tested are:

- '2nd Generation' Emulsified pattern wax -Using water as the filler is ideal for recycling. The new material offers improved dimensional capabilities and greater flexibility in manufacture of patterns and castings.
- Liquid Filled wax – an exciting new concept in filled wax. All the benefits of emulsified wax but with high temperature stability and enhanced performance characteristics.
- On-site recyclable filled wax This uses a new type of filler that has all the benefits of currently used fillers plus benefits.

- Non filled wax – Potential use for aerofoil, igt, turbowheel production. Being very low ash and very fluid it allows the production of more detailed pieces at lower injection temperatures
- Filler reclamation – Typical pattern wax contains 30+% of filler which is currently sent to landfill after recycling the used wax. It is important that a way is found to reclaim this expensive material and Blayson Japan has now developed a patented process. Feasibility studies are underway to look at building a plant for this purpose.
- Innovative process related wax tests - Most wax tests look purely at physical parameters and there is a lack of information that can be directly applied to wax injection. Blayson has developed new test procedures that mimic injection conditions and will facilitate adjustments to individual injection presses to optimise pattern production.
- Improved wax manufacturing procedures Predictive production control is being introduced and means that Blayson's wax manufacturing process is being redesigned to incorporate raw material capability. The result will be greater product consistency and improved speed of manufacture for both virgin and recycled products.

Products will be available for customer trials in the near future, if you would like to arrange a sample, or for more details please contact Dave Bond
davebond@blayson.com

Raw Material Costs Soar – Wax Surcharge Introduced

World prices for commodities of all types are soaring. This applies equally to everything from basic foodstuffs through to the oil industry derivatives that Blayson uses to manufacture its investment casting wax products.

The situation is exacerbated by shortages in supply mainly due to high demand. There is a secondary effect as a result of the switching to bio fuel crops by many farmers and a subsequent reduction in the production of many naturally occurring wax and resin materials.

Due to this unprecedented and unrelenting flood of cost increases in the majority of raw materials used in the manufacture of wax products, Blayson has no option but to apply a surcharge to all virgin and reconstituted wax products. Please note that the surcharge will not apply to reclaim wax products.

The ongoing cost movements will be monitored closely and if/when it is possible to reduce or hopefully remove the surcharge we will do so.

Blayson Technical Team meets

The latest in the regular series of meetings between the UK & Japan based technical teams took place in mid March at Blayson Japan's offices in Chiba, Japan. As usual a wide range of on-going and future wax related initiatives were discussed. These will form the basis of enhanced performance products and processes that will be introduced to the industry in the next few years and will ensure Blayson maintains its lead position in wax technology.