

Advanced Heat Treat Expands Again

Advanced Heat Treat is expanding into their new service center and corporate offices, a 40,000 square foot facility that will be up and running this year. Meanwhile, the two present service centers in Waterloo, IA, and Monroe, MI, are anticipated to increase unit shipments of all kinds of heat-treated parts for the automotive, tool and die, construction, farm machinery, plastics, aerospace and auto racing industries.

Almost 20 years ago, AHT's engineer CEO Gary Sharp identified an emerging market within the heat treating industry—



Advanced Heat Treat's expansion project.

plasma ion nitriding. The growth and success of this venture over the years has been dramatic. Added employees and equipment, expanded services and expertise, ISO-9002 and QS-9000 registrations have all led the company to expand its facilities over the years, first in Monroe and now once more in Waterloo.

plasma ion nitriding. Sharp purchased the necessary vacuum chamber equipment and began business in Waterloo.

Because Advanced Heat Treat was one of the few companies in the heat treat industry offer-

Changes at the Top for Inductoheat

Edward J. Rylicki has been recently promoted to president of Inductoheat's Mass Heating Division. Rylicki has been with Inductoheat since 1991 and has 35 years of experience in the induction heating industry.

Jerome Sinkowski has also been recently promoted to the position of director of quality assurance and production control. Sinkowski will be responsible for management representation



Edward J. Rylicki



Jerome Sinkowski

for Inductoheat's ISO 9001 and Ford Q-1 Quality systems, ensuring the company's continuous improvement of products, processes and customer satisfaction. He has been with Inductoheat since 1972.

Colonial Tool Group Purchases Val-U-Tool & Gage Company

Colonial Tool Group, based in Windsor, Ontario, has announced the purchase of the business and facilities of Val-U-Tool & Gage Company, a designer and builder of precision tools, checking fixtures and prototypes, based in Westland, Michigan. The company's name will be changed from Val-U-Tool & Gage to Colonial Tool Sales & Service.

According to Paul Thrasher, Colonial's vice president of operations, "this acquisition significantly adds 15,000 square feet of needed assembly floor space and some new manufactur-

ing and machine shop capabilities that will expand our overall services to our automotive customers. The purchase will also add 30 additional employees to our workforce, bringing our total employment to 120. Tom Klosowski is continuing to serve as general manager of the Val-U-Tool facility and is optimistic about the possibilities and the good fit."

Brett Froats, Colonial's vice president of sales and marketing adds: "Our business activity in the design and manufacture of RASTM precision machine spindles, broaches and spline rolling racks has grown incrementally over the past five years. We created the need for some type of expansion, particularly in the United States and at close proximity to more of our automotive customers. The addition of Val-U-Tool meets that current need."

Welduction Hires New Engineering Manager

The Welduction Corporation of Farmington Hills, MI, has named Jack Westfall its new engineering manager. With over 25 years of experience, Westfall had previously been a private consultant to numerous companies in the areas of mechanical design and engineering procedures.

Welduction is a full service, Q-1 and ISO-9001 certified induction heat treating equipment supplier specializing in automatic, flexible heat treating systems, thermal bonding and radio frequency generators. A complete line of standard induction hardeners, power supplies, accessory items and spare parts is also available.

Valenite Appoints New Marketing Communications Manager

Barbara Ann Craig has been named Valenite's new marketing communications manager. She will be responsible for the planning and implementation of Valenite's advertising, public relations and marketing communications. She will also be responsible for video, trade shows, corporate logos and Valenite's marketing via the World Wide Web.

A veteran of the advertising industry, Craig brings 13 years of marketing communications experience to her new job. Most recently, she was an account supervisor at Stone, August, Medrich & Company Advertising, Troy, MI, where she was responsible for such clients as Weight Watchers, Valenite and Durakon. Prior to that, Craig worked at Donor Advertising for 10 years representing retail accounts, and at Alcon Marketing.

Middendorf Joins Falk's Cincinnati Office

Michael Middendorf has joined the Falk Corporation's Cincinnati, OH, office as an outside sales engineer. In his new



Michael Middendorf

position, Middendorf will join district manager Jim Nowicki in serving the company's customers throughout southwestern Ohio, central and western Kentucky and central and southern Illinois. A graduate of the University of Dayton with a BS in mechanical engineering technology, Middendorf brings extensive

technical experience to Falk gleaned from eight years at HK Systems and Littleford Day.

Guhring Expands West Coast Operation with New Cutting Tool Specialist

Robert H. Cox has just joined Guhring's fast-growing Irvine, CA, operation as a cutting tool specialist supporting Guhring's standard and special cutting tool sales throughout southern California, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.

Cox brings to Guhring an extensive background in engineering and manufacturing CNC precision-machined components for the aerospace, defense and electronics industries. "Bob has spent 17 years running CNC machining departments—his experience and knowledge will be of tremendous value to our aerospace, automotive and medical device customers in the region," said Paul Jaques, Guhring's sales and marketing manager. "The



Robert H. Cox

role of our regionally located application engineers is to work one-on-one with customers to identify and capitalize on opportunities for machining performance improvement with better holmaking technology. Bob has been on the other side of the table. He knows what is expected and how to make a difference."

Downturn in Machine Tool Consumption

U.S. machine tool consumption for December 1998 totaled an estimated \$482 million, according to AMTDA, the American Machine Tool Distributors' Association, and AMT, the Association for Manufacturing Technology. This was down 4% compared to the revised estimate of \$503 million for November, and down 39% compared to the estimated \$787 million total for December 1997.

"After a five year ride to the top, machine tool consumption cooled in 1998," said AMTDA president Ralph J. Nappi. "While the fundamental indicators for manufacturing are still sound, we will likely experience a sporadic year for capital equipment expenditures with various industries hitting peaks and declines throughout 1999."

The statistics cited are computed from reports submitted by companies participating in the United States Machine Tool Consumption (USMTC) report. Analysis of machine tool consumption provides a reliable leading economic indicator as manufacturing industries invest in capital metalworking equipment to increase capacity and improve productivity. ⚙

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