

Serving those who create precision metal products using stamping, fabricating and other value-added processes.



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Associations

Steelmakers Unite to Support New Marketing Initiative

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), Washington, DC, has established the Steel Market Development Institute (SMDI), with the mission: "To advance the competitive use of steel through a market-driven strategy that promotes cost effective steel-based solutions." SMDI will operate as an AISI business unit funded by eight steel-producing companies.

U.S. Steel's J. James Kutka Jr., senior vice president-strategic planning and business development, heads the new SMDI board; AISI senior vice president David C. Jeanes is SMDI president.

AMT has New VP

Jeffrey H. Traver has joined AMT-The Association for Manufacturing Technology as vice president-business development. Among the facilities reporting to Traver are AMT offices in China, Mexico and India.

AHAM Promotes Technical Services Director to VP

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM), Washington, D.C., promoted Debra K. Brunk to vice president, technical services; she had been the department's director. The AHAM technical services department oversees development of the association's voluntary performance standards for appliances,

administers its product-rating verification services, provides technical support for regulatory advocacy issues and oversees cooperative research efforts.

Awards

Stamper Recognized for Dedication to Training and Education

E.J. Ajax & Sons, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, has been named a winner in the fourth annual Progressive Manufacturing 50 Awards, a program developed by *Managing Automation* magazine. E.J. Ajax received its award in the discipline of Training and Education Mastery, one of eight categories included in the awards program.

Ajax's award recognizes "companies that have devised/deployed programs to advance employee knowledge and use of advanced automation and IT technologies on an on-going basis and with demonstrable results," as well as "companies that have instituted scholarship or other promotional programs to encourage secondary or college-level students to pursue a career in manufacturing, with demonstrable results in those programs."

Lincoln Electric Earns Customer-Service Recognition

Smart Business magazine recently presented Lincoln Electric Co., Cleveland, OH, with its 2008 World Class Customer Service Award, established to share best practices and raise

awareness of the importance of customer service. Lincoln Electric recently incorporated Six Sigma practices and other measurement programs, and adopted new technology to speed the processing of inquiries and warranty issues. It also retooled its phone service to improve answer rates, which now are above 98.5 percent, according to company officials.

Other new programs include free next-day UPS service on domestic parts orders, shipment-tracking e-mails and online warranty processing.

Fluids Supplier Earns Ford Q1 Award

Houghton International, Valley Forge, PA, received the Ford Q1 Award for supplier quality from Ford Motors in Brazil. Houghton's Fluidcare Division has provided chemicals and fluids-management services to Ford Motor Co. Brasil Ltda. since 2004.

Agreements

Olson Intl. Acquired, to be Combined with IMS Buhrke

Holding company IMS Companies LLC, Des Plaines, IL, acquired Olson International Ltd., Lombard, IL, along with Olson's affiliated operations in Matamoros and Monterrey, Mexico. Olson manufactures precision metal stampings and assemblies, and designs and builds metal-stamping dies. Over the next several months, IMS expects to