

Exhibitor Highlights

VA Technology Ltd. Marks 20th Year in Investment Casting Industry

VA Technology, exhibiting in Booth 800-801 at the World Conference on Investment Casting, recently marked its 20th year in the investment casting industry. The company followed up the completion of a facility in Cleveland, OH with an expansion of its manufacturing capacity in the UK.

Emphasizing product development and customer support as its core culture, VA Technology has grown from an upstart company in 1988 to the industry leader it is today.

Continued growth and commitment have been evident in the past year, as the UK-based company recently opened the

new Cleveland facility, which features a training center, spare parts and service center, and full-time dedicated customer support personnel. The facility also stocks a range of standard shellroom equipment products, enabling rapid availability for the end user.

An influx of personnel in technology, manufacturing and customer support has been recruited to bring about and support technology and product advancements.

VA Technology offers a range of products in three categories:

VA Tech Shellmaker systems have been installed in more than 160 locations worldwide, and approximately 38 in North America. Systems are individually engineered to satisfy customer-specific needs. Designed for manual operation or fully automated, each solution represents an experienced evaluation of the process and manufacturing capacity requirements.

Shellmaker products include: slurry preparation equipment, slurry tanks, rainfall sanders, fluidized bed systems, investment casting robots, drying systems, fluidized beds, slurry preparation equipment, environment control systems, and shell management systems.

VA Tech Precision grinding systems represent the combination of power grinding technology and advanced robotic engineering. Developed for investment

casting use, the grinding systems deliver maximum productivity with virtually unlimited flexibility. High accuracy and consistent surface finish accompany safe and environment-friendly working conditions.

VA Tech Mixing includes the power mixer range of direct drives mixer units designed to meet the specific needs of the investment caster. Mixers have been developed for high shear, high flow, or gentle stirring of the slurry. These can be fitted with the alternative types of control for complete mixing solutions.

Akron Porcelain & Plastics Announces New Ceramic-Based Bottom Fill Pour System for Air Melt Investment Casters

Information on Akron Porcelain & Plastics' new patent-pending bottom-fill pour system (BFPS), will be available in Booth 818 at the 12th World Conference on Investment Casting Expo.

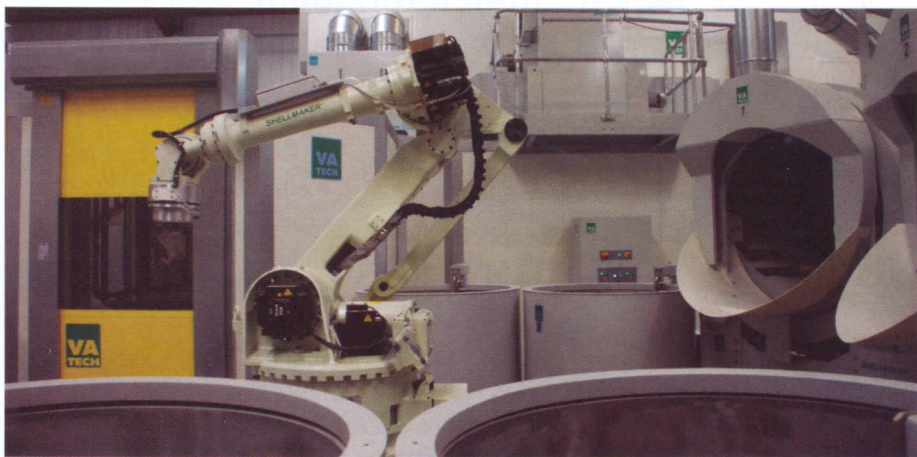
The system consists of a pouring system that fills conventional molds from the *bottom* of the shell *upward* and drastically reduces the amount of turbulence created within the pour. All of this is achieved without modifying any current shell and pouring practice on the shop floor. The benefits of BFPS technology are considerable. Research has confirmed a more consistent fill of each pour that significantly reduces scrap and improves cosmetic appearances for all high-profile castings. Scrap reductions of 25% are being tracked with a test user and commensurate savings in total dollar costs are already being realized.

For more information, visit Akron Porcelain & Plastics at Booth 818, e-mail at kburkins@akronporcelain.com or call 330-745-2159 x 127.



LEFT—VA Tech Precision grinding systems represent the combination of power grinding technology and advanced robotic engineering.

RIGHT—VA Tech Mixing includes a pre-mix system especially developed for the aerospace industry.



VA Technology's innovation has been instrumental in transforming many shell rooms into highly productive units.