

Dear reader,

Please find attached the first edition of our newsletter with information to keep you up-to-date with the latest developments at Proferro. You will probably know that we have made considerable investments in the renovation and growth of our foundry in recent years, and it is with great pride that we introduce you to our new HWS-molding line in the first edition of this newsletter. Not only did the investments help to realize a number of technological breakthroughs in the field of molding and casting heavy parts, ergonomics and output, they also safeguard the long term continuity of our activities and employment. The new molding line marks the start of a new chapter in the history of our foundry that began in 1936. In combination with the expertise and experience built up over the years - and where quality and innovation always take centre stage - it ensures that Proferro can continue to make a difference in the future.

We are delighted to introduce you to some of our clients in this bulletin, such as the compressor and generator manufacturer Industrial Air division of Atlas Copco and the weaving machine builder Picanol, both leading global players in their field. These client projects always revolve around our expertise and added value, thanks to a unique offer of co-engineering, casting, machining, assembly and testing.

We wish you pleasant reading!
Cathy Defoor
Vice-President Proferro

PROFERRO AIMS FOR FURTHER GROWTH WITH NEW HWS MOLDING LINE

In 2010, Proferro successfully introduced a new molding line with larger mold boxes and automated transport of cast iron. Thanks to an investment of 16 million euros, Proferro can now work with highly automated state-of-the-art equipment that guarantees a high degree of productivity and automation. Proferro's new Seiatu molding machine EFA-SD7 (HWS) works with box dimensions of 1600x1200x400x400+60 and a capacity of up to 50 boxes per hour. The machine's advanced technology can produce small and large series and handle castings with a weight between 100 kg and 500 kg.

"Our new HWS molding line enables us to produce difficult, technically more complex castings in both lamellar and nodular cast iron, and both core-intensive and coreless. The high and homogenous compactability of the molding sand also realizes a higher casting density, allowing us to cast more accurate dimensions and hence even higher quality castings. The box dimensions on the HWS line complement those on our existing Taccone line and formed an important precondition for this investment" states Marc Dejonghe, Proferro's Sales Manager. Since it is fully encapsulated, the new HWS molding line also performs well in terms of environmental friendliness. The molding machine, cooling installation, casting machine and transfer system of the filled casting pans were supplied by the Italian company Progelta. Meanwhile, the British company, Clansman Dynamics, provided the manipulator for manipulation after cooling.

With the new molding line, Proferro seeks to increase its market potential for larger castings.

Its current ambition is to offer engineered casting solutions for medium-sized series (500 to 20,000 pcs) in a value-driven, long term partnership. Proferro aims to be the preferred partner in applications whereby the client focuses on modules and components with a high added value: "Our unique combination of co-engineering, casting (on two molding lines), mechanical finishing, assembly and testing, sets Proferro apart from its competitors. In our capacity as a subsidiary of the (weaving) machine manufacturer Picanol, we possess substantial know-how and make use of the complete technological chain. This enables us to take account of our client's requirements as regards functionality, casting, finishing and assembly of castings from the very beginning of a project."



(photo: the first casting test performed on the HWS.)



COMPONENTS IN CAST IRON FOR ATLAS COPCO

Since 2000, Proferro has been producing ready-to-install oil separators for the air compressors (series GA 11 to 90) that are manufactured by the Industrial Air division of Atlas Copco. This division forms part of Atlas Copco Airpower in Wilrijk, which is the world's largest integrated production plant for compressors and generators. The oil separator in an air compressor separates the oil from the compressed air by means of centrifugal force, gravity and filtration. Each oil separator contains some 50 different components (including various machined castings), all of which are assembled, tested hydrostatically and pneumatically, and certified by Proferro. One of Proferro's great advantages is that it is able to provide complete solutions with all of the steps being integrated, from co-engineering right through to the final certification. The oil separators are supplied to Atlas Copco and are ready for installation. Since the start of the new molding line in 2010, Proferro has also been supplying additional cast iron components for a number of Atlas Copco compressors, such as the gear casings for the oil-free rotary tooth compressors ZT 15-22, ZR/ZT 30-45 & ZR/ZT 22-37-55 VSD, and for the oil-free rotary screw air compressors ZR/ZT55-90 and ZR/ZT90 VSD.



(photo: the air compressor GA 90 from Atlas Copco.)

MORE THAN 300,000 WEAVING MACHINES WITH CAST IRON FROM PROFERRO

As a subsidiary of the Picanol Group, Proferro has played a crucial role in the expansion of the industrial weaving machine manufacturer. Thanks to its technological superiority, Picanol has fulfilled a pioneering role for more than 75 years and ranks



(photo: Managing Director Luc Tack at the 300,000th Picanol weaving machine.)

among the world's top weaving machine manufacturers. One in every three jeans produced around the globe has been made on a Picanol machine. As early as its first weaving machine – the Omnium dating back to 1936 – Picanol has been using its own foundry. "For static structural machine parts in grey cast iron as well as for highly dynamic driving elements in nodular cast iron, Picanol's R&D division works in close cooperation with Proferro to optimize the designs. Virtual designs including elements such as strength, castability, finishing, design and costs are exchanged from a very early point in the design cycle to ensure that the final products emerge from the casting molds 'first time right,'" states Kristof Roelstraete, R&D Manager at Picanol. At the end of May 2010, Picanol in Ypres produced its 300,000th weaving machine, a new milestone in Picanol's history in which the castings of Proferro played an important part.

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