

GREDE NEWS

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GREDE HOLDINGS LLC



NovoCast in Sweet Sixteen

Grede's NovoCast facility in Monterrey, Mexico, has received a 2014 Supplier Partner Award for achieving excellence in meeting its quality, delivery, cost savings and innovation objectives.

NovoCast was named in the foundry category among 16 North American suppliers recognized by Meritor.

"We are extremely honored to receive this award as a reflection of Grede's hard work and commitment to exceed customer expectations every day," said Raul Lopez, managing director of Grede de Mexico.

Meritor, a leading global supplier of drivetrain, mobility, braking and aftermarket products for commercial and industrial markets, said the awards "exemplify excellence" by its supplier partners.

Lightweight Solutions Take Center Stage

Like participants at a Weight Watchers™ convention, everyone in the automotive, on-highway and off-highway vehicle arena is peering at the scales as the drive to reduce weight and improve fuel economy moves into high gear. At Grede, it has become a major priority.

Grede Gets a LIFT

Grede participated at the recent opening of the new American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovations Institute (ALMMII) in Detroit, and is leading a project under the Institute's Lightweight Innovations For Tomorrow (LIFT) program.

The \$148 million, 100,000-square-foot innovation acceleration center aims to facilitate partnerships among major research institutions and manufacturers to speed transfer of new manufacturing technology from the research lab to the production floor.

LIFT is a federally funded effort to spur faster commercialization of lightweight metal technology. Grede is leading a LIFT project covering lightweight, thin-wall ferrous castings, long an area of its expertise. "LIFT is the perfect catalyst for achieving innovative breakthroughs" to improve powertrain efficiency, said Jay Solomond, vice president-engineering and technology.

New Approach to Product Development

Lightweight design is a key area of a new multi-faceted approach to product development aimed at increasing Grede's engineering capabilities for automotive, heavy truck and industrial applications.

To take on the mission, Grede has increased its engineering staff by 75 percent since 2014, said Jay Solomond, vice president-engineering and technology. "This all-encompassing, customer-focused approach includes leading design and development activities, lightweight design programs, and material evaluations that include Sibodur®, lost foam, and high temperature materials," Solomond said.





Ashley Langford Headed to Harvard

Ashley Langford, senior account manager on the Grede sales team, has been selected to participate in Harvard University's Young American Leaders Program. The program will be held at the Harvard Business School from June 9-12.

It's aimed at improving U.S. competitiveness by identifying talent at the local level who will become the next generation of senior leaders in business, government, non-profit and faith-based sectors.

The program includes 750 young leaders from nine U.S. regions. Ashley will represent Detroit and Grede.



Ken Stanfors Cited for Long Career

Ken Stanfors started his Grede career as a quality manager 43 years ago, but it was in sales where he made his mark.

Among other posts, he was instrumental in developing key accounts at OEMs, including Chrysler, later moving into industrial sales where he was instrumental in developing key hydraulic accounts at Bosch, Danfoss and others.



Flying High!

The 2014 Bill Grede EAGLE awards have landed.

The Wauwatosa (Liberty), WI, and St. Cloud, MN, foundries were recognized for zero lost time or restricted duty incidents in the safety category. Reedsburg, WI, showed the most significant environmental improvement, while the Brewton, AL, operations were cited with the Energy Star as tops in energy management and program savings, highlighted by its LED light conversion activities.

Brewton also was singled out for its on-time shipping performance and PPM external quality, gauged by parts returned to customers, and for inventory management. St. Cloud, MN, ranked first in scrap internal quality based on the lowest scrap percentage and for 5S and visual control audits. Meanwhile, the New Castle, IN, foundry took first in cost controls.

In the Sales & Marketing team initiatives competition, EAGLE awards went to Ashley Langford (shown right with Doug Grimm), Andrew Velker, Matt McDonald and Kenney Jamison. Langford won two awards for her hit-rate performance in securing new business, and Jamison as "account manager of the year."



NEWS from the Plants



John Haas, general manager, Grede St. Cloud, tours the foundry with Minnesota Lt. Governor Tina Smith (center) and President of the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation Patti Gartland.

Grede Hosts Minnesota Lt. Governor

Grede's St. Cloud facility hosted Minnesota's Lt. Governor Tina Smith, including a meeting with Grede's management team and a tour of the foundry. The visit provided the opportunity to discuss the recently announced expansion of the St. Cloud plant. The \$17.5 million project will add 32,000 square feet to its existing 320,000 square-foot foundry.

Reedsburg Installs Advanced Trim Cell

A new automated trim/robotic casting processing cell has been installed at the Reedsburg, WI, facility. The trim press aims to improve costing structure, throughput, quality and safety. The robotic unloading line allows for post process visual inspection as well as resonant frequency testing, a new technology. The installation will enable manufacture of leaf spring brackets for a major full-size pickup OEM.