



Dameron Expands Foundry Production to Mexico

“Bienvenidos a Mexico y DAFMEX” (“Welcome to Mexico and DAFMEX”) is the phrase you will be sincerely greeted with when you walk through the entrance of Dameron Alloy Foundries' newest production facility in the community of Mexicali, Mexico. Located just south of the border from Calexico, California in the Maquiladora corridor, Dameron Alloy Foundries has renovated an existing 40,000 sq. ft. building and will call its newest production facility — DAFMEX. The official name for the newest Dameron operation is DAFMEX, S. de R. L. de C. V.



Over the last several years, there has been much discussion on the development of this international operation. Those discussions lead to feasibility studies, location visits, building and site inspections, and hundreds of other factors that go into this type of undertaking. The requirement for additional manufacturing space was a key element in the overall decision. With expansion of the corporate facility not a possibility, the decision to locate in Mexico became a very solid option. By mid 2003, it became clear that a facility located just south of the border would be ideal due to its close proximity to Compton.

From the initial project release stage, the plan was to have the investment-casting process (injection, molding, pouring and finishing) commencing in May 2004. This plan remains in place with the first melt and pour scheduled for the month of May. Dameron will transition production to this new facility throughout the remainder of the year.

While years in the planning, the project has been gaining speed with each week that passed. Both John Dameron (President/CEO) and Jeff Milucky (VP of Manufacturing), have been very active in the plant renovation, layouts, ordering, scheduling, and the installation of equipment. Jeff has made repeated trips to the facility to make special arrangements for hiring of the local work force, utilities, logistics, etc. and will continue to visit regularly throughout the various stages of equipment installation. In the words of John Dameron, “this operation will make Dameron Alloy Foundries, Inc. a truly multi-national, multi-facility organization specializing in the production of near net shaped investment castings and capable of meeting our customer’s needs.”

This new operation is being built to duplicate the exact production systems and conditions that are found both in the company’s Compton, CA. and Louisville, KY. plants. In some regards, it will “mirror” those operations. It will be able to pour and process many of the same alloys and castings that the Compton facility currently handles. It will have state-of-the-art multi-station wax injection equipment, house 6th generation robotic dipping mechanisms, contain nearly 550 linear feet of drying conveyor, and have powerful tilt induction furnace melting capacity. The operation will also contain various automatic casting cleaning and custom-fabricated finishing equipment designed and built at Dameron.

DAFMEX will offer the same advantages to Dameron’s customers as do the company’s other production facilities

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Improve Quality and Reduce Cost with Investment Cast Open and Closed Impellers

By Kevin Burkhart and Dave Baron



The secret behind the success of investment casting impellers has long been the result of a "trial and error" process. Not so at Dameron! While many foundries struggle with creating these types of castings, Dameron has successfully been producing these difficult designs for a number of years. Our customers in the food, chemical, and compressor market/industries have not experienced the severe quality issues that have traditionally plagued other foundries.

Our secret: through the efforts of Kevin Burkhart (who joined our staff approximately 18 months ago) and other staff members, the company has developed a unique casting operation. The result: these investment castings are produced regularly at Dameron and are of superior quality. The process enhances the intricate detail of the casting by allowing the metal to flow easily into difficult areas of the design.

Open-faced impellers can offer a much less challenging opportunity to cast when compared to a closed impeller. However, both designs can be produced in the specialized process Dameron utilizes. (See photo for examples of cast impellers and casing for reference.)

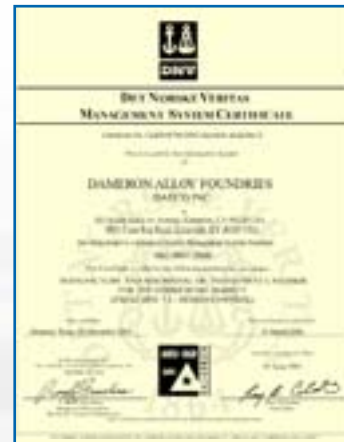
In addition to the improved quality of the casting, the surface finish of the investment casting is much better than that of a sand or shell casting, and therefore resulting in improved component efficiencies. Further, Dameron's castings allow for more complex designs to be produced. Dameron's casting techniques eliminate most of the very expensive machining required with other castings due to our ability to cast in the passage way features to net shape requirements.

All this, and the advantage of the company's fast turn around lead times, provides our customers with the luxury of reducing their inventory volumes and thereby saving additional costs.

If volumes are low, i.e. for specialized alloys or replacement parts, Dameron can provide the service of it's Rapid Prototype equipment for the production of wax patterns without the need for investment cast tooling.

Give Dameron a call and speak with our sales staff about how you can improve the quality of your impellers and reduce your cost at the same time. You will be glad you did! ▲

Dameron Certified to ISO-9001-2000 Standard



On May 12, 2003 Dameron Alloy Foundries, Inc. received their ISO-9001-2000 Certificate from DNV (Det Norske Veritas) for the manufacture and machining of investment castings for the Commercial Market. This certification is an opportunity for Dameron to take the next step in the maturation process of their management system.

Benefits include: emphasis on improvement in customer satisfaction, reduced required documentation, and improved organizational performance.

Dameron's initial ISO certification was received nearly 10 years ago on June 7, 1994. Under the guidance and tutelage of Virginia Condon, the recent certification was issued as a result of a near perfect audit.

Thank you Virginia and everyone for your efforts in seeing this project through to this certification. ▲

Meet Chris McDermott International Field Sales Manager

For many of our international customers, Chris is a familiar name and his photograph will be readily recognized. However, for our other customers, this is a new face and a name that has been added to the Dameron personnel roster.

Chris has recently completed his first year with the Dameron organization in January 2003 after spending nearly 30 years with Johnson Radley, Ltd. in mould manufacturing for the glass container industry. He is the first co-worker on staff with Dameron residing outside the US. During his time at JR, Chris eventually became intimately involved with Dameron products due to the sales distributor relationship between Dameron and Johnson Radley. His responsibilities included representing the Dameron product line to customers, eventually taking over the product management of that department.

When he joined the sales staff of Dameron, he literally "hit the ground running" and has not stopped since. His conditioning as a seasoned sales individual and his comprehensive knowledge of the Dameron products and philosophies have allowed him to make an immediate and positive impact on the European glass container market. During his first year with the company, he has visited as many of our customers as possible. Chris recently stated, "I am grateful for the warm reception and assistance I have received from each visit I have made".

For the customer, Chris' many years of experience as a mould maker, and therefore a customer of Dameron, puts him in a unique position of being able to bring the "user perception" in his sales activities. Having experienced the needs and problems that confront customers on a daily basis, Chris is able to understand completely what the customer is asking for as well as why it is being asked. This translates into Dameron receiving clear and accurate information from the customer.

For Dameron, Chris' presence in the field enhances our position in the market place. It allows for our

European customers to easily have a foundry representative meet face to face with them on a regular basis. This is an ideal extension of our sales and marketing function and good for both the customer and Dameron.



Chris lives in Leeds, England with his wife Barbara. He works out of his home there and is ideally situated to stay in regular contact with Dameron's customers. He is looking forward to making new sales calls and revisiting

our customers in the months ahead.

Welcome aboard Chris from the entire staff of Dameron and from those thoughtful customers who have commented to us about your excellent service and performance. ▲

Nickel Scrap Recycle It With Dameron

Many glass container plants and mold shops have supported this valuable program with Dameron. We want to say "Thank You" for that support.

Dameron is continuing its nickel scrap-recycling program aimed at recapturing and reusing nickel from the HR nickel base alloys. We pledge that we will continue to offer the most competitive price for this material in the market place.

When the glass plant returns their nickel scrap to Dameron, it enables Dameron to keep its pricing as low as possible on new castings. In addition, it retains these valuable materials within the glass industry and equally important, it assures each plant that they receive the highest price rebate possible for their scrap material.

Do not hesitate to contact Mike Petrus (1-800-421-1985) at the corporate office or Dave Baron (1-616-847-2400) at the company's regional office. Arrangements will be made for the return of the scrap material and for a reimbursement check to be sent directly to the glass plant.

We Fill Your Needs

DAMERON EXPANDS: CONT. FROM PAGE 1

DAMERON ANNOUNCEMENTS

Births to Dameron Employees

Francisco Montes, Jr. – Born to Francisco and Wendy Montes. Birthday: 01/14/04 – 6 lbs., 15 oz., 20" long

Madison Love Martinez – Born to Eddie and Beverly Martinez. Birthday: 01/30/04 – 7 lbs., 6 oz., 20" long

Promotions

Oscar Espinosa - Plant Manager DAFMEX
Mapy Villa - Finishing Supervisor DAFMEX
Jorge Macias - Investment Dept Supervisor DAFMEX
Gabriel Fernandez - Pouring Floor Supervisor DAFMEX

New Hires

Lilya Zhrebneko - Receptionist (Corporate)

Specials



Mike Archuleta,
 25 Year
 Service Award
 February 19, 2004
*(Mike shown with
 John & Jack
 Dameron)*

Employees with **Perfect Attendance** received awards at 2003 Christmas Banquet. Congratulations to each person.



First Shift Employees

Back: L-R, years in () - *Rene Cuadras(6), Maria Solorzano(1), Jose Flores(6), Angel Rivera(1), Heriberto Soto(13) & Sergio Zacarias(1)*

Front: L-R, years in () - *Nicolas Garcia(3), Hector Diaz(14), Jesus Soto(3), Paul To(7), Elia Gomez(2), Baldomero Guillen(1) & Mario Espinosa(8)*



Second Shift Employees

Back: L-R, years in () - *Juventino Zambrano(1), Angel Corona(3), Pablo Ortiz(2) & James Johnson(2)*

Front: L-R, years in () - *Rafael Radillo(4), David Guerrero(1), Mariano Cantoran(2), Mariano Michel(1) & Roberto Jimenez(6)*

- superior quality, fast turn around lead times and competitive pricing. All customer service, sales, engineering and accounting functions will be handled out of the corporate headquarters in Compton. Cast products produced at DAFMEX can be transferred to the Compton facility for any additional or special processing work required, such as machining. Invoicing will occur as usual from the Compton accounting offices.



Oscar Espinosa (shown here) will oversee the DAFMEX facility as the plant manager. His complete knowledge and understanding of the investment casting operation has been gained over the last 11 years as an employee, supervisor, and manager at Dameron. In addition to Oscar, the staff at DAFMEX will be Mapy Villa (Finishing/Shipping Supervisor), Jorge Macias (Investment Department Supervisor) and Gabriel Fernandez (Pouring Floor Supervisor). They have all transferred from the Compton operation. Together, they have all pledged that they will support the customers' need for quality products delivered to them on time, every time.

As stated well by Oscar, "we are all very excited about being able to produce our customer's castings in Mexico".



L-R (Gabriel, Mapy, Jorge)

To echo Oscar's comment, everyone at Dameron is extremely excited about our newest casting operation and we are looking forward to serving our customers with quality products from this state-of-the-art facility.

As the production capacity develops at DAFMEX, more information will be made available through future newsletter articles ▲



Dameron has updated and improved its website. Please visit us @:
www.dameron.net
 And you will see how.....
We Fill Your Needs.

DAMERON ALLOY FOUNDRIES • 927 South Santa Fe Avenue • Compton, California 90224
Phone (310) 631-5165 • Fax (310) 631-5001 • www.dameron.net
Divisions: Dafco/Truecast-Louisville, KY • Daftec-Compton, CA • Dafmex-Mexicali, MX