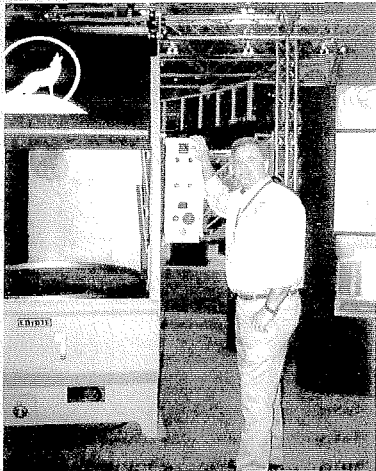


# CastExpo 2005 Review

## St. Louis, Missouri • April 16-19

# Innovations in Blast Cleaning

- **Strong show turnout**
- **Roberts Sinto enters North America market**
- **DISA Goff introduces new shot blast machine**
- **Wheelabrator features innovative solutions that focus on new technology and productivity including Equipment Modernization Program (EMP) upgrades**
- **Viking Blast and Wash Systems releases new and improved Rubber Belt Blaster**



*Jim Goff with Coyote displays his new machine that features a motorized rubber door.*

The 2005 CastExpo promised to be the largest metalcasting exposition in North America. Held every three years, this CastExpo was the first joint exposition of the American Foundry Society and the North American Die Casting Association. Promoters said that it would showcase the latest research, the newest technology and the most current process information. Jack Champaigne and Tom Brickley of Electronics Inc. went to CastExpo 2005 and had the opportunity to visit many business colleagues and see firsthand the newest products and services in the industry.

St. Louis was a good choice for the show: The weather was spring-like and the city was alive with building and renovation projects all around the convention area.

The show was held on a Saturday through Wednesday and, surprisingly to exhibitors, even the weekend attendance was robust. Blast cleaning and shot peening vendors had a strong presence at the show, both in number of exhibits and size of their booth space. As we entered the central entrance main hall, Roberts Sinto had a large exhibit on one side and DISA Goff was on the other.

Roberts Sinto used the show to introduce its line of shot peening and airless blast equipment to the North American market. Roberts Sinto is a world-class supplier of foundry equipment and is located in Lansing, Michigan. It is owned by Sintokogio, Ltd. of Japan. Sintokogio has manufactured wheelblast and airblast equipment for 40 years in Japan and Brazil under the names of Sintoblator, Sinto-do-Brazil and Sintokogio. The expansion into this market is a natural progression for Roberts Sinto as many of their machines are in North American factories.

At the DISA Goff booth we were greeted by the new president, Rob Garibay. Rob has many years of experience in the shot peening and blast cleaning industry—first at Pangborn then at Advanced Materials Process (AMP). Rob is very excited and optimistic about the future of DISA Goff in both blast cleaning and shot peening applications. DISA Goff launched its new Micro Mesh Continuous Shot Blast machine at the expo.

In the center of the main hall, Wheelabrator Group had an array of products. Dominating the booth was a rebuilt tumblast machine that featured Wheelabrator Group's ability to provide components for Wheelabrator and non-Wheelabrator products.

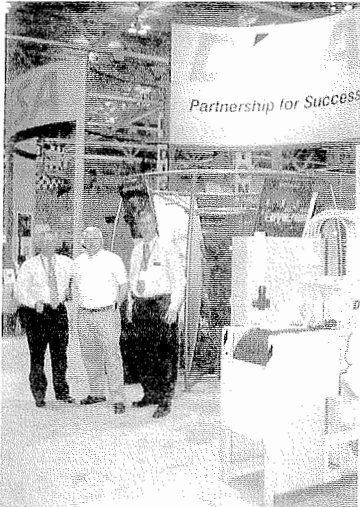
We also visited Jim Goff with Coyote. His new machine features a motorized rubber door. According to Jim, the door is lightweight, durable, safer for operators, and cost-effective.

We came away from the show with the feeling that the blast cleaning business segment is alive and well. The exhibitors were pleased with the high traffic and interest level of the attendees. Original equipment manufacturers continue to pursue and apply new technologies to advance their company's position in the marketplace. Efficiency, less downtime, a smaller footprint, lower operating costs, and ease-of-use are but a few of the benefits that these companies are applying to our industry.



Roberts Sinto, headquartered in Lansing, Michigan, represents the Sintokogio product line in the United States. Maintaining a corporate office and manufacturing plant in the U.S. is a natural progression for the Japanese-based company as many U.S. corporations are using their machines. Featured at the show was Sinto Surface Treatment (SST), a new market division of Roberts Sinto Corporation. Sinto has long been the market leader of airless blast equipment in the Pacific Rim, and Roberts Sinto is introducing their advanced designs and abrasive blast technology to the North American market.

## Roberts Sinto establishes North American presence at CastExpo 2005



Jody Slocum (Slocum Industrial Equipment), Jack Champaigne (Electronics Inc.), and John Bishop (DISA Goff).

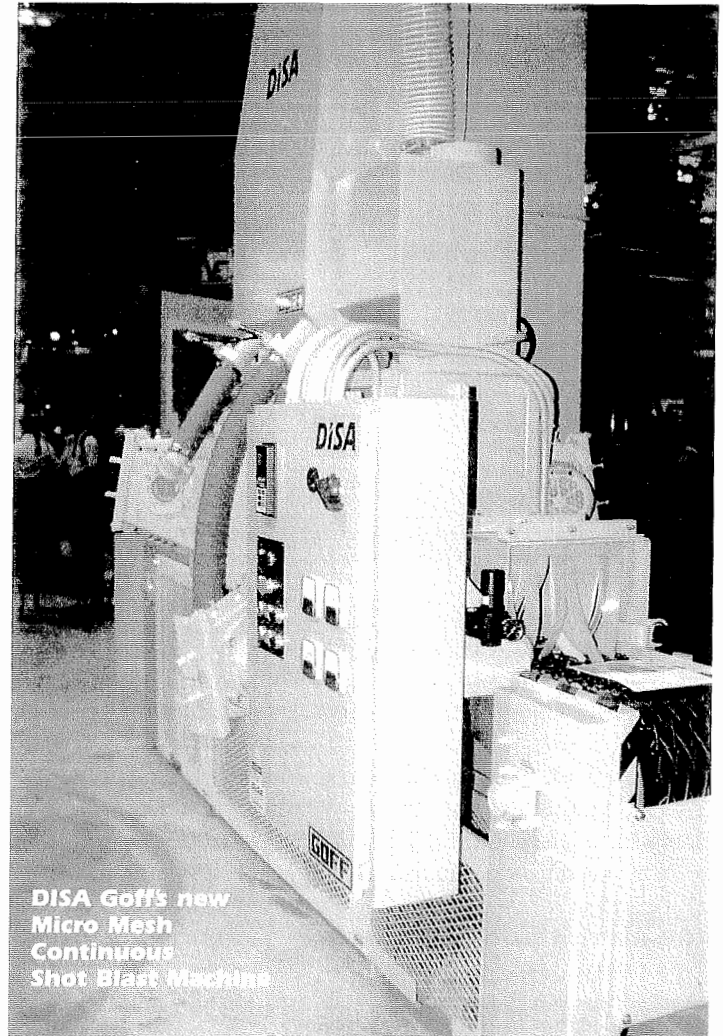
The DISA Goff Micro-Mesh 12-4-20 wire mesh continuous pass-through machine was displayed for the first time at CastExpo 2005 and received a great deal of interest, especially from the die cast industry.

The new machine features a 12" wide manganese steel mesh belt with (4) 5HP blast wheels and is perfectly sized for small die cast parts. Prior to release of this new, smaller design, wire mesh pass-through machines have been too large and expensive for many of the smaller die casting plants to operate or afford. The new design is much more compact in design, which allows it to be placed in places

never before possible and is priced at a level that is now within even the smaller company's budget.

Located in Seminole, Oklahoma, U.S., DISA Goff manufactures an extensive line of high production abrasive blast equipment, water blast cleaning equipment, and portable surface preparation machines.

## DISA Goff introduces new shot blast machine design



DISA Goff's new Micro Mesh Continuous Shot Blast Machine

## Wheelabrator Group invites show attendees to "Take a Closer Look"



The Wheelabrator Group had a 60' x 40' booth and featured the theme "Take a Closer Look." A magnifying glass overlapped a flat screen monitor with continuously-changing slides that featured process solutions and new technology for the foundry and die casting industry.

One of our favorite exhibits in the Wheelabrator Group booth was the competitor's blast cabinet that featured "Equipment Modernization Program" (EMP) upgrades. The original components were painted black, the new Wheelabrator Group components were painted blue. The huge machine was a simple, graphic testimony to the large number of retrofit components (including MagnaValves™) that Wheelabrator is capable of providing, even on non-Wheelabrator products. According to the Wheelabrator Group, consisting of field modifications to current machines, standard and custom EMP packages offer a way to increase productivity and operating efficiency, extend service life, and maximize equipment flexibility including adapting to a changing work mix. Their engineers can assess any brand of surface preparation equipment, including non-Wheelabrator Group machinery, and provide a report detailing modernization recommendations to achieve maximum efficiency and safety. (For more on EMP, see Industry News on page 36)

*Pierre Tanguay (Wheelabrator Group) and Jack Champaigne (Electronics Inc.) hold a discussion at the MagnaValve display in the Wheelabrator Group booth.*



## New Rubber Belt Blaster from Viking Blast and Wash Systems

Viking Blast and Wash Systems used CastExpo 2005 as the perfect venue to release their new and improved Model 600 Rubber Belt Blaster. They promoted the machine as ideal for high speed processing of parts that can be gently tumbled in the blast mill's cushioned rubber blast cavity. The Model 600 showed off its many new and improved features to help increase the machine's life span and efficiency: A new conveyance feature provides longer wear, the increased horsepower transfer to the blade tip reduces blast cycle time and it has a more sensitive belt safety switch that protects the belt from tearing caused by parts lodged in the belt drain holes.

The Viking staff was pleased with the reception to their products and the show itself. "After reviewing the CastExpo 2005 trade convention, we would rate the exposure and experience as one of the best in recent memory. The turnout of potential prospects and overall interest and enthusiasm in the industry well-exceeded our expectations. Those in attendance were key decision-makers and seemed to be more willing to make capital investments than in the recent past," said Martin Freund, Sales, Viking Blast and Wash Systems.

