

## Empire Abrasive Equipment

### Empire acquires AAC Engineering

Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Empire Abrasive Equipment Company, a leading producer of airblast equipment, has announced the acquisition of AAC Engineering Systems, Inc., an innovator of centrifugal-disc deburring systems.

AAC's Mercury centrifugal-disc systems, including the world's largest automated centrifugal barrel machine, will retain their identity as the "AAC Mercury by Empire." Other operations, products, designs and intellectual property will fall under the Empire banner as the companies combine operations and personnel at Empire's headquarters and manufacturing facilities in Langhorne.

Commenting on the acquisition, Empire president and CEO Harry Hill explained: "AAC's enviable technology gives us a new tool to meet the needs of the many manufacturing sectors in which surface treatment is crucial to product performance and sales appeal. Empire's worldwide marketing resources and technical support will draw increasing attention to the advantages of AAC's products."

More information about Empire's complete line of airblast equipment is available at [www.empire-airblast.com](http://www.empire-airblast.com). Information about AAC products can currently be found at [www.aaceng.com](http://www.aaceng.com).

## Wheelabrator Group

### Noise Reduction for Leading Foundry

LaGrange, Georgia. A market-leading foundry producing automotive drums and rotors recently turned to market leading surface preparation supplier Wheelabrator Group to update its existing equipment. Together, they have created a true in-line production model for the foundry's facilities.

EZEFIT™ blast wheels have replaced BD wheels on several Wheelabrator® spinner hanger machines at two plants to date. These larger, more efficient wheels have reduced cleaning times up to an average of 25 percent, increased parts life and dramatically reduced noise levels and vibration. The new wheels have eliminated the need to pull parts off the line to keep up with the molding unit. This upgrade has allowed the foundry to keep their molding machines running at peak efficiency providing them with big cost and time savings by not having to double handle parts. The more efficient wheels have eliminated work in process and created a streamlined in-line production model.

At one plant, four EZEFIT wheels were installed on a spinner hanger machine that already boasted low cycle times; however, the new wheels reduced the times even further. The biggest change the customer saw after the wheel installation was a major reduction in vibration in and around the machine.

*Continued on page 32*

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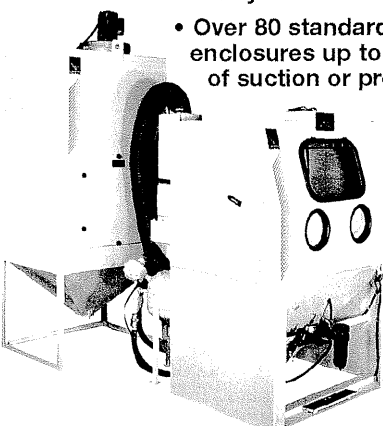
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During the Sunday night start up after the installation of the new wheels, the operators did not think this machine was even on. This dramatic reduction in noise level and vibration equates to less operator fatigue. The foundry has been so impressed with the initial EZEFIT wheel installations that they have purchased 10 additional wheels for four machines. They plan to eventually replace all 100+ wheels operating in all of their plants with the new EZEFIT wheels. The process will take several years to complete.

**Wire Mesh Belt Improves Production**

Burlington, Ontario. An aluminum die casting company recently approached the Wheelabrator Group with the challenge of designing a machine to fit certain specialized criteria. They were seeking a Wheelabrator® wire mesh belt machine to shot blast a large dome-like fixture that had never been fabricated; proper wheel placement was key, and there weren't any parts available to test.

The Wheelabrator group designed a unique soccer ball shaped four-wheel wire mesh belt to meet the criteria. The machine's almost octagonal cabinet shape allows the wheels to be mounted at compound angles to create the necessary blast pattern. Another benefit of the cabinet's design is that it is more open and provides easier access to the blast wheels, making them easier to maintain.

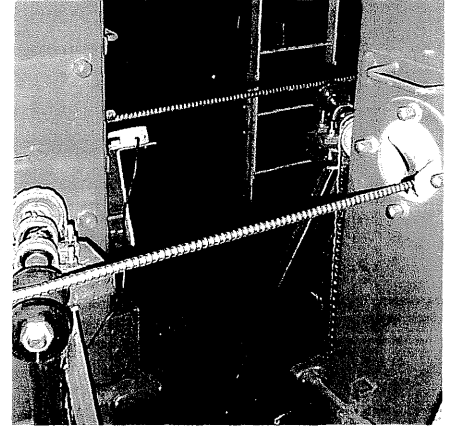
The new soccer ball shaped four-wheel wire mesh belt not only met the client's criteria for blasting the new fixture,

but it also improved their production by totally eliminating three other blast machines. For more information on Wheelabrator visit the web site at [www.wheelabrator-group.com](http://www.wheelabrator-group.com) or e-mail [info@wheelabratorgroup.com](mailto:info@wheelabratorgroup.com)

**Skew Roll Machines Provide Western Coating with Needed Profile for Rebar**

Burlington, Ontario. Western Coating, with plants in Eugene, Ore.; Auburn, Wash. and Ogden, Utah, is an industry leader providing epoxy-coated rebar for projects ranging from private residences to salt water piers to miles of ramps and bridges. Because coated rebar is less likely to cause concrete spalling and fracturing, it is often specified for the construction of longer-lasting structures.

Recently the company contacted Wheelabrator for a blasting solution at their Auburn, Wash. plant. The company's two existing machines were worn out, leaking abrasive and constantly in need of maintenance. This caused a lot of down time on the line. Two new Wheelabrator® Skew Roll Machines, installed in January 2004, provided the answer.



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