



**DONCASTERS**

June 2007

### **IS THE UNITED STATES THE NEW LOWER-COST ECONOMY?**

The early 21<sup>st</sup> century aerospace sector is an increasingly global market, with established aerospace and manufacturing nations facing growing competition from developing nations.

Increasing expertise and lower cost bases have seen many OEMs turn to suppliers based in the lower cost economies of Asia and South America, but with the Euro now at a historic high against the US dollar, firms with sites in the USA can also be added to this list.

Eric J Lewis, Chief Executive of the Doncasters Group, commented: "Traditional manufacturers have had to face up to the realities of globalisation for a number of years now. At Doncasters, we have invested in a number of research and development programmes to ensure we are at the forefront of industry advances, as well as instilling lean manufacturing techniques and a culture of continuous improvement across our sites.

"While these changes have proved successful, we have also opened our own sites in lower cost economies, such as Mexico and China, enabling clients to benefit from the cost savings available in these countries while offering the reassurance of Doncasters' reputation for quality, service and reliable delivery.

"With seven of our North American sites already serving the aerospace industry, and further capacity increases following the acquisition of FastenTech, Inc. in May this year, the historically strong Euro presents a real

opportunity for our clients, allowing OEMs across the globe to benefit from the lower costs, capacity and expertise currently available across our US sites.”

Just last year, Doncasters invested \$20m in a North American Centre of Excellence for castings at its facility Southern Tool in Oxford, Alabama, USA. The four year programme of development will create a dedicated Centre of Excellence for casting and will see manufacturing capacity for equiaxed vacuum casting quadrupled by 2010.

The facility will also harness Doncasters’ own lower cost facility in Monterrey, Mexico, to provide machining services and, ultimately, offer engine-ready parts supplied in a fully-finished condition.

Eric continued: “The global economy is constantly evolving and it is crucial not to be overexposed in any one market.

“By operating on a global level, firms can both protect themselves and their clients from economic changes in any one country, while offering clients real choice in terms of specialist expertise and value for money when resourcing new contracts.

“Doncasters’ customers are already benefiting from the extended range of capability at Southern Tool and the current Euro:Dollar exchange rate means that the site now offers even better value for a range of clients.”

Doncasters currently operates seven sites serving the aerospace sector across the USA and Mexico. These include Doncasters Storms Forge, Springfield (MA), Doncasters New England Airfoil Products, Farmington (CT), Doncasters Precision Castings New England, Groton (CT), Doncasters Effingham, Rincon (GA), Doncasters Southern Tool, Oxford (AL), Certified Alloy Products, Long Beach (CA) and Doncasters Mexico.

Following the acquisition of FastenTech, Inc., capacity is set to increase to 13 sites. These include IET, Evansville (IN), Mecor, Paris (IL), Spun Metals,

Brazil (IL), Acraline, Tipton (IN), GCE, Chula Vista (CA) and General Products, Huntsville (AL).

These facilities will provide clients with additional specialist capability in the fabrication of high temperature components through advanced manufacturing abilities in diffusion bonding, heat treat, computer controlled photo-resist electro-chemical machining, laser cutting and welding, robotic welding, CNC punching and close tolerance multi-axis machining.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editor:**

**The Doncasters Group** is a fast growing leading international manufacturer of performance and tolerance critical engineering components for a variety of end market applications. Doncasters excels in working with alloys and metals that are difficult to shape and form, and that are required to operate in demanding ambient conditions.

The company's unparalleled range of products and processes has been developed to offer customers a broad, vertically integrated capability. Core manufacturing processes include precision casting, forging, fabrication, machining and production of superalloys.

Key products include airfoils, structures, casings, rings, exhausts, combustion components and fastenings for application in gas turbine engines, aerostructures and components for airframe applications, compressor and turbine wheels for the speciality turbocharger market, and ranges of fastenings for construction, industrial, truck, recreational and military markets. The company offers well-developed supply chain integration solutions, delivering complex assemblies and engine-ready components to its customers.

Doncasters employs some 6,600 people across U.S.A., Europe, China and Mexico. The Group has institutionalised lean manufacturing and Six Sigma principles throughout its operations.

Doncasters recently announced that it had completed the acquisition of FastenTech Inc, a leading manufacturer of precision components and fastenings, from CVC Capital Partners for \$492m.

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