

South Korean Firm Wins Rights to Use North Korean Ship Repair Yard

Acheon Global Corp., South Korea, recently obtained the exclusive right to use the Ryongnam Ship Repair Factory in Nampo, North Korea. According to company officials, the right to use the facility will allow Acheon to gain domestic and overseas investment in its ship repair and steel-structure manufacturing businesses.

The factory, which was built in 2005, has two docks for ship repairs and a wide yard around it. Acheon has not yet received the required approval from the South Korean government for the inter-Korean cooperative program, but plans to do so if a trial run of a welding machine assembly business at the factory is successful.

Yonhap Electric, an Acheon affiliate, plans to build 20 carbon dioxide welding machines at the factory to see if the joint business would be lucrative.

Thompson Secures Contracts for Seven Friction Welding Machines



Thompson Friction Welding has received orders for seven new friction welding machines to weld a variety of hydraulic cylinder piston rods (inset).

Thompson Friction Welding Ltd., based in Halesowen, UK, recently secured contracts for seven new friction welding machines from several top international makers of construction machine components, including Caterpillar.

The machines, which are valued at more than \$10 million, are designed to friction weld a variety of hydraulic cylinder piston rods in a wide range of diameters from 20 to 130 mm. They will be built at the company's manufacturing facilities in Hereward Rise and Chancel Way.

Four of the machines are being supplied to customers in Europe, the United States, and the Far East. The others will be delivered to manufacturers based in South America and Asia.

Northwire Expands and Relocates Asian Operations

Northwire, Inc., Osceola, Wis., recently relocated and expanded its Asian operations. The new facility, located in Jiangsu Province, China, includes a 5300-sq-ft warehouse and 3400-sq-ft office. The company also increased its sales force there.

"Demand for Northwire products has increased significantly around the world, and we've expanded in response," said Allan Lin Hong Jin, general manager of the company's China opera-

tion. "The previous Asian operation, located in Shanghai, China, did not include a warehouse — it was simply a sales office. With a warehouse in China, we will be able to expedite shipping to customers and distributors throughout Asia."

The new facility will stock a wide range of bulk cable products.

Nederman Sells Equipment for Use in Car Inspection Centers in Turkey

Nederman, Inc., Westland, Mich., recently sold \$1.6 million worth of exhaust-extraction equipment for car-inspection centers in Turkey. The company will equip 188 inspection sites for cars and other vehicles in 81 towns in Turkey.

The first delivery took place in January. The systems are the same type used by the Swedish vehicle inspection authority. Installation will be supervised by the company's agent in Turkey, Havak Endustri Tesisleri Tic. Ltd.

UK College Opens Engineering Facility; Air Products Donates Welding Equipment



Apprentice Jason Gray (left), a first-year mechanical engineering student at Yale College, shows some of the new engineering center's equipment to North Wales Secretary of State Paul Murphy.

Yale College in Wrexham, North Wales, recently opened a new Engineering and Construction Skills Center. The \$10 million center will play a major part in training the local workforce for careers in the aeronautical, automotive manufacturing, and construction industries, and in getting students interested in pursuing the high-level skills industry requires.

"Staff at Yale College are excited to be part of this cutting edge development in post 14 facilities for engineering and construction training," said Yale College Principal Paul Croke. "The investment made by the Welsh Assembly Government indicates the exceptionally high regards with which they hold Yale College and our quest to deliver outstanding training that matches the best available in the UK."

In addition, Air Products, Walton-on-Thames, has donated \$60,000 worth of welding equipment to the school. The equipment includes gas tungsten arc and gas metal arc welding machines, and a comprehensive maintenance package. The company also offers an apprenticeship scheme for students at the college, and the company's engineers provide the college with training, works visits, and assistance with specialized expertise. The collaborative program is intended to encourage students to enter the welding profession. ♦