

**press release**

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**Title: RAUTOMEAD RS USER GROUP MEETING IS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS**

**Release Date: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

Committed to providing the very highest levels of service and technical support for their international customers, Rautomead Limited have just held a comprehensive User Group Meeting for users of their RS series copper rod casting machines.

This invitation-only event, held 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September at the company's headquarters in Dundee, Scotland, the User group Meeting was attended by 26 representatives of Rautomead customers from ten countries around the world.

The event included technical papers presented by senior members of Rautomead staff covering best practice in the operation and maintenance of the equipment, papers presented by outside specialists on a range of relevant topics from copper refining through to superfine wire drawing. Delegates had the opportunity for a close inspection of Rautomead's latest technology incorporated in a completed model RS 3000 copper rod casting machine, including a fully versatile rod withdrawal system, capable of handling rods in the diameter range 8mm to 30mm and with an automatic alloy dozing system for production of high copper alloys. A separate live presentation was given of a new remote Plant Monitoring System, with a real-time display of a machine in production in Johannesburg. A presentation was also given of Rautomead's latest RDG series induction heated casting equipment where higher output is required from a single furnace.

The two-day event concluded with a gala dinner, held at the prestigious Old Course Hotel in St Andrews, where delegates were piped to the dining room led by a kilted piper.

“At Rautomead, we see ourselves as much more than machine builders”, commented Rautomead Chairman, Sir Michael Nairn. “Our whole business ethos is founded on gaining a clear understanding of the needs of our customers and on developing technology solutions to meet those requirements. We have a strong commitment to good customer service from the moment we meet, right through the useful life of the equipment our customers may purchase.

We see this User Group Meeting as an integral part of our service to customers; as an opportunity to listen, to teach and to share technical information and experiences; an opportunity to maintain and enhance the bond and sense of unity of purpose among the wider Rautomead user community and to express our appreciation to our valued international clients. I have no doubt that the informal networking links established between customers will be a significant benefit for all who attended”, concluded Sir Michael Nairn.

Spread over two days, the Rautomead RS User Group meeting involved numerous key speakers – each an expert in their particular field – and covered the following topics:

- Production and Material Properties of Graphite
- Furnace – finite element analysis
- Crucible care – best practice and procedures
- Benchmarking machine performance
- Best Practice – heating elements, hot metal, furnace body, service intervals, tooling
- Plant monitoring
- Factory tour and RS 3000 operation
- Cu-OF – appreciation of principal characteristics and applications

- Copper cathode selection
- Wire drawing
- Rod Processing – Conform™ technology for extruded copper sections
- The Intec Hydrometallurgical copper process
- World copper markets
- New induction-heated machines for higher outputs

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