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RAUTOMEAD COMMEMORATES GROWING RELATIONSHIPS IN CHINA

Continuous casting technology specialist Rautomead Limited of Dundee, Scotland has been contracted to supply a model RMT 200 precious metals casting machine to Zhejiang Huangcheng Workshop Culture & Development Co. Ltd of Shangyu City, China. The machine will be configured for the casting of fine silver strip which will be processed to manufacture coins, medals and collectable commemorative items for distribution through a network of the customer's shops throughout China.

In the precious metals industry in China it is widely known that the Shanghai Mint and the Shenyang Mint have, between them, five Rautomead casting machines for processing gold and silver. The owner of Zhejiang Huangcheng Workshop Culture & Development Co. Ltd, Mr. Wu, left the Shanghai Mint approximately 18 years ago to establish his own company trading in precious metal coins and artefacts.

The growth and success of that Trading Company has provided the confidence to invest in a factory to manufacture products for sale through the available distribution network. The new factory will commence operations during 2012. The manufacturing process will commence using high quality continuous cast strip produced from the Rautomead casting machine.

Rautomead Sales and Marketing Manager Guy Henderson observed "This project is an indication of the continuing and growing demand for gold and silver products in China and also a reflection of the need for those products to be made from the highest quality materials starting with continuous cast strip produced on a Rautomead machine."

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GRAPHITE CRUCIBLE TECHNOLOGY

Rautomead's unique casting process is based on the use of a graphite holding crucible, surrounded by electric resistance heating elements to provide the power to melt and hold the metal charge. Heating is by thermal radiation and heat convection. The interior of the machine is protected in an inert gas atmosphere to protect the hot-working graphite components.

OXYGEN-REDUCING

Silver has a strong propensity to absorb oxygen in the molten state. The totally enclosed nature of the Rautomead process, where the molten metal is in contact only with the pure carbon surfaces of the holding crucible and casting die, is a particularly suitable process for casting silver and eliminating any residual oxygen present. An additional feature is the still metal bath created by the external resistance heating elements, thus avoiding the turbulence associated with many induction heating systems in close proximity to the casting die.

ROBUST, RELIABLE AND SAFE

Though many features of the Rautomead process, especially the withdrawal mechanisms and controls, have been developed and refined over the years, the basic furnace design remains as it was originally designed, over twenty years ago. These machines have proved so robust, reliable and safe to operate that many of the early machines are still in daily use today.

THE NATURAL CHOICE

Rautomead has supplied over 150 continuous casting machines for the processing of gold and silver alloys for coinage strip, jewellery, electronics and dental alloy applications all around the world. The unique features of these machines are conducive to the production of the highest quality, blemish-free silver strip and make Rautomead the natural choice.

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Photo caption: Rautomead RMT model continuous casting machine