



Minnesota Metalcasters Extraordinary

By Tim Hartigan
President, St. Paul Brass and Aluminum Foundry

Who are the Metalcasters of Minnesota? MCM is an organization of foundries for foundries doing business in Minnesota. MCM's mission is to promote the importance of metal casting in Minnesota and to be a strong advocate for our industry through effective lobbying on a local, state, and federal level. Nearly every foundry in Minnesota is a member. We represent thousands of employees and millions of tons of metal poured.

Minnesota is sometimes thought of as a difficult place to operate a heavy industrial business. Perhaps. But think about this. Here in Minnesota we have three of the best aerospace foundries in not just the United States, but the world. We have the worldwide leader in mining casting wear solutions. We have at least eight foundries that are among the best in the USA for castings for transportation

systems. We have the best high pressure, corrosion resistant bronze foundry in the country. In the last five years Minnesota foundries won AFS honors for casting of the year and foundry of the year more than any other state in the country. And by the way, all of these extraordinary foundries are MCM members.

There's a story here. It's a story of technological competence, business acumen, and responsible community stewardship. It's a story of one of the oldest industries self-selecting for the best, the brightest, the fastest, and the most adaptable. Minnesota has asked a lot of her industrial businesses. But Minnesota foundries have not only answered, they have found a way to adapt to become extremely competitive in the United States and the world. Hats off to you all!

Metalcasters of Minnesota Spring 2009

Congressman John Kline to Speak at Spring Meeting

The MCM spring meeting is scheduled for Noon on May 8, 2009 at the University Club in St. Paul. Congressman John Kline will be the keynote speaker.

Congressman John Kline was elected to represent the suburbs and rural counties south of Minnesota's Twin Cities (the 2nd District) in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002, and was re-elected to a fourth term in 2008. During this time, Congress-

man Kline has established himself as one of Congress's foremost experts on defense and veterans issues, a conservative voice on tax and budget policy, and an advocate for education. John Kline and his wife Vicky live in Lakeville, Minnesota. Mr. Kline is especially proud of his two children and four grandchildren. His son is a helicopter pilot in the Army, who has served two tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

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MCM Highlights

- *Spring Meeting May 8th*
- *Congressman John Kline Keynote Speaker*
- *MCM membership participation excellent*
- *MCM balance sheet healthy*
- *Minnesota foundries among the best in USA*

MCM Spring Meeting

May 8, 2009

University Club
420 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102

Schedule of Events

11:30 a.m. Lunch Registration
12:00 p.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Congressman John Kline

Keynote Topics

Economy
Card Check
And other important issues facing the Federal Congress



Cost: \$50 members and non-members. Email registrations to kristine@irbinc.biz

*Non-members are welcome at the spring and fall meetings. Members are always welcome at board meetings.

Stormwater Permit Update

By Therese Benkowski,
Weather-Or-Not Consulting, Inc.

After almost seven years since the expiration of the Minnesota General Industrial Stormwater Permits, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is in its final stages of development of a replacement General Industrial Permit. The delay in this process was, for the most part, due to the State waiting on Federal stormwater permitting rule changes to be developed and implemented by the EPA. Since the Federal rules direct how individual states are to implement a regulation, it was in the best interest of the MPCA and also the permit holders, to wait until this process was finalized. Exact timing of issuance of the new Minnesota General Industrial Permits has not yet been published by the MPCA, but it is anticipated to occur before the end of 2009. Therefore, it is in the best interest of all facilities to

take these next few months to evaluate how you as a facility would stand up to the proposed permitting changes. Some of the expected changes to comply with the new permits will entail industry specific periodic stormwater monitoring as well as additional Best Management Practices (BMPs). Foundries are listed as "Sector F: Primary Metals Facilities" under this revised regulation.

Industrial facilities have another option to avoid the potentially cumbersome new permitting regulations by qualifying for the Industrial Activity No-Exposure Exclusion. Now may be a good time to evaluate this possibility and make any necessary facility changes for this option. More information on the Industrial Stormwater Program and Permitting can be found at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/>

Minnesota Manufacturer's Coalition

By Ken Damewood
VP Operations, Northern Iron and Machine

The Minnesota Manufacturing Coalition, in its fifth year, is a collaboration of manufacturing associations and individual manufacturers from across the state. Its purpose is to raise the visibility of key manufacturing issues and the contributions manufacturers make to their local and state economy. The Coalition operates as a committee of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. MCM is actively involved and has been from the start with the Minnesota

Manufacturing Coalition.

The Coalition has two current focuses – converting the sales tax on capital equipment to an upfront exemption and workforce development for the manufacturing industry. The Coalition meets every other month. For more information, contact Jennifer Byers at the Minnesota Chamber at jbyers@mnchamber.com or 651-292-4673.

Copper and Iron Ore Drives ME Elecmetal

By Andy Fulton

Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing, ME Elecmetal

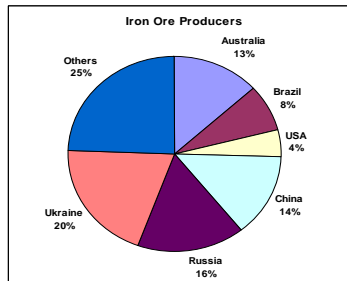
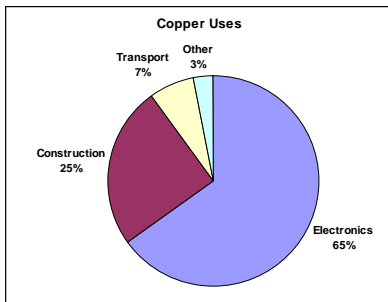
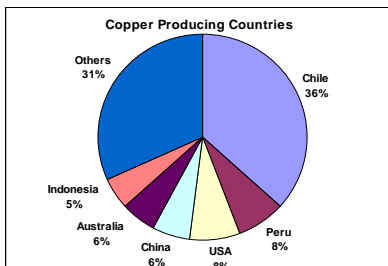
As the leading supplier of abrasion and impact resistant castings for the mineral processing industries the fortunes of ME Elecmetal are tied to the consumption of copper and iron ore. On a consolidated basis in 2008 ME Elecmetal shipped 74,000 tons of castings from 5 foundries located in North America and Chile.

Each of us as consumers depend on a wide variety of minerals everyday, but copper and iron ore (eventually as steel), has the biggest impact. For example the average passenger automobile weighs 3,175# with 2,380# in steel, iron, aluminum,

magnesium, copper and zinc. There is 1,830# of steel and 47# of copper in each car. With 73 million new cars built in 2007 world wide that adds up to more than 1.7 million tons of copper and almost 67 million tons of steel.

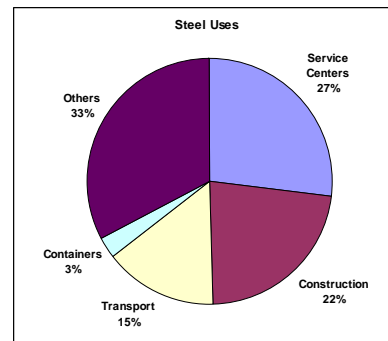
Where does it all come from and how else is it used? The charts at the left and below tell the story.

The most significant demand going forward will come



from the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) with China having the biggest impact. To help bring their country out of the recession the central Chinese government has rolled out a \$586 billion stimulus package. Within

that package in 2009 the government has committed to spending over \$85 billion on expanding the energy market wind generation, nuclear, solar, and coal fired generation. They currently operate 11 nuclear reactors with plans to expand that to 55. Even in these trying times China is building a strategic reserve of copper at very low prices in preparation for the demand ahead



In the end with over 1.4 billion people in China and the country transforming from a rural to more urban society the demand for copper and steel and many other raw materials will only increase. While we all are struggling with the current recession there

is positive news for ME Elecmetal as we prepare ourselves for the next round of growth from BRIC with the reopening and development of new mines.

Beneficial Reuse of Foundry Sands Update

By Therese Benkowski,

Weather-Or-Not Consulting, Inc.

MCM continues to progress forward with discussions with the MPCA for state acceptance of foundry sand reuse. A draft authorization to reuse foundry sands for Controlled Low Strength Material (CLSM), aka flowable fill, has been issued by the MPCA in the past few months. MCM is currently in discussions with the MPCA to come to an agreement as to the most appropriate test method and test limits for compliance of foundry sand use for this applica-

tion. Once these terms are in agreement between both organizations, additional reuse authorizations will be drafted for other reuse opportunities. This will allow a more streamlined approach by any interested foundry in reusing their sands for a project in the future. Most likely a foundry will still need to apply to the MPCA for the reuse opportunity as each one presents itself, however the MPCA will be able to stamp the approval in a quicker timeframe to allow the project to remain feasible.



Our Mission

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Hope Springs Eternal

By John Derus

Executive Director, Metalcasters of Minnesota

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times: Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities. We hope that we have hit the bottom of this recession, can see the light at the end of the tunnel and are headed back towards better times. The stock market looks better, but unemployment numbers continue to mount and orders in our industry are stagnant. However, it is spring and spring is eternal. So we look forward to our annual Spring meeting.

Our Spring meeting will be held at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave, St. Paul at 11:30 am. Our keynote speaker will be U. S. Congressman John Kline, of Min-



nesota's second congressional district. Congressman Kline is the father of an Army Blackhawk pilot, the husband of a retired Army nurse and a twenty year veteran of the Marine Corps. He is a GOP member of the House and has become a leader in the Minority Caucus. He will be a great speaker. We hope you all will attend our meeting in St. Paul.

By the time of our spring meeting we will know a lot more about the shape and size of the state budget and the record, monstrous size of the deficit. I will leave the statements on the condition of the federal government to Congressman Kline. See you on May 8th.

MCM Safety Committee

The Metal Casters of Minnesota is an industry service organization that provides many benefits to its members. One such benefit is the Safety Committee resource. The MCM Safety Committee is made up of safety professionals from the member companies who stay on top of industry trends and issues involving workplace safety. This diverse group brings experience from both ferrous and non-ferrous manufacturers.

The Safety Committee meets from time to time to discuss current issues and share best management practices. The Safety Committee also provides a group of four to six inspectors who can visit member facilities to conduct a full safety assessment. These confidential inspections include review of written programs and policies as well

as a plant tour to identify current hazards, regulatory compliance, and offer advice on challenging situations the facility is dealing with. The goal is to help each other attain excellence in workplace safety and compliance.

The 2009 Safety Committee agenda is focusing on Arc Flash hazards and implementation of the latest NFPA 70E standards for our electrical workers. We have one safety inspection scheduled in April. The committee is eager to book two more inspections this year. If you are interested in an inspection or have safety concerns and are looking for additional consultation, please contact the committee chairman, Tom Zarnke at Northern Iron & Machine, 651-227-0721 tzarnke@northernim.com