

Franklin Bronze proud of additions, awards

Company's bi-metal casting earns accolades from casting institute

Franklin Bronze Precision Components, a leading manufacturer of investment castings for glass container and industrial sectors, announced some big changes that took place over the last year.

A new leader

John Carnes joined Franklin Bronze in November as general manager. Carnes has more than 20 years of plant operations management experience. Most recently, he spent seven years as a general manager in the aerospace turbine and engine components market.

As general manager, Carnes is focused on creating consistent direction and strong leadership to develop and grow the FBPC business.

He is a strong champion of forming a successful operations team through leadership, mentorship and training.

Carnes has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

Young engineer

Franklin Bronze, with approximately 100 employees, actively employs engineering interns who are interested in an investment casting career.

Neil Kruse, a recent engineering graduate of Penn State University, joined Franklin Bronze early last year as an engineering intern under the direction of Bob Barber, former owner of Franklin Bronze and now director of usiness development.

In September, after completing his internship, Kruse joined the FBPC team as a full-time employee.

His primary focus is engineering new jobs from print to final product.

Sales and marketing team

Bob Barber is responsible for new product development



John Carnes joined Franklin Bronze last year as the new general manager.

for the business.

Barber is a graduate metallurgist who works closely with the Franklin Bronze sales and engineering team.

Kevin Weaver joined Franklin Bronze in 1997. As industrial sales manager, he leads the sales team along with oversight of the two automated shell rooms. He has years of experience taking a part from print to finished casting. In addition, Weaver oversees the automated wax rooms.

Shelly Winters joined Franklin Bronze in January of 2015 as marketing/sales coordinator.

Winters provides sales and marketing support to the FBPC team. In her marketing role, she provides market and sales analysis to the business. As sales liaison with production, she communicates customers shipping information ensuring timely delivery of investment casting products to customers across the globe.

Rick Skinner, glass sales manager, joined Franklin Bronze in 1996. As a senior manager, Skinner leads the glass sales team and manages tool inventory and wax room employees.

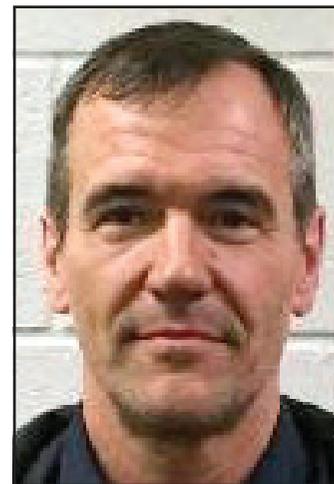
Jody Giesler joined Franklin Bronze in 2004. Giesler



Bob Barber



Neil Kruse



Jody Giesler



Rick Skinner



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has a working knowledge of the products and processes at Franklin Bronze. He has worked in the robotic automation upgrades for the shelling department.

Giesler was promoted last year to sales coordinator and is in charge of processing all customer orders.

Franklin Bronze has a field sales engineering team covering the Americas.

Awards

In October, Franklin Bronze won Investment Casting Institute's casting contest for bi-metal casting.

This bi-metal casting, where an investment cast nickel-based alloy insert is investment cast into the bronze neck ring, is used to achieve superior wear and life in that it is the only area of the neckring that contacts the molten glass in the bottle making process.

Although these inserts have long been supplied in the traditional sand cast neck rings, the investment cast rings are superior in holding a more precise location for the insert, which results in extremely even insert wall sections after final machining. This is very important in maintaining consistent and even solidification and heat transfer from the glass bottle surface, as the insert material and bronze have significantly different thermal conductivity.

In addition, the investment cast inserted neck rings offer superior and more consistent metal fusion at the interface of the bronze and the insert. This is due to the controlled pre-heat of the insert in the ceramic mold prior to the pouring of the bronze.

Not only does the superior fusion of the investment cast

ring provide for a more secure hold of the insert in the casting, but this also allows for superior and more consistent thermal transfer.

Traditionally manufactured as a sand casting or a continuous cast product, this near net shape investment cast neck ring allows for material savings of up to 30 percent as compared to sand castings and up to 50 percent as compared to using continuous cast bar material.

Using investment cast rings further reduces machine time costs due to the weight reductions and also in tooling cost savings.

Building business

Franklin Bronze is a world leader in the manufacture of precision investment castings for the glass mould industry.

Parts that are manufactured include guide rings, baffles, plungers, inserts, thimbles, blowheads and top-plates.

In addition to glass container castings, FBPC has been focused on building its industrial sector business. This includes castings for food, automotive, drilling and mining, marine, steel, and valve and pump industries.

Much of the industrial casting business is focused on new product development.

New products

Franklin Bronze introduced three-dimensional printed waxes to its investment casting process in order to develop products quicker.

New advancements in 3-D printing technology allows for quick, small order prototyping with no need for wax model tooling.

While partnering with customer's engineering teams,



Shelly Winters



Kevin Weaver

FBPC deploys 3-D printing prototyping to move from development phase to production phase much faster.

This allows for faster new product development.

In this process, parts may be redesigned based on FBPC engineering expertise and input to help their customers sell more competitively providing an advantage to their customers as they compete in the marketplace.

Aimed for growth

In November, Franklin launched a new, redesigned version of its website, www.franklinbronze.com.

Franklin Bronze's new website highlights the company's automated manufacturing capabilities, in-house tooling, machining, automated processing and technical expertise.

Key features of the site include a cleaner, more attractive design, improved navigation, and a more engaging and intuitive user experience.

The clean, fresh look with an easy-to-navigate layout allows for more efficient and effective communication with customers, potential customers and industry partners.

The site is designed for use on any device, features a user-friendly selector chart for customers to find the right alloy for their cast part; a form for

visitors to get in touch with a specific project for quoting; and a news & events area for the latest company and technical developments. Along with the website, FBPC released a new brochure to reflect the design and aesthetic of the website.

Franklin Bronze Precision Components looks forward to its future and is looking to continue to expand its team, processes, technology and facility.

Acquisition

Franklin Bronze & Alloy Co. was acquired by Wall Colmonoy Corp. on Aug. 29, 2014.

Franklin Bronze was renamed Franklin Bronze Precision Components and it became a wholly owned subsidiary of Wall Colmonoy.

Wall Colmonoy, together with Franklin Bronze, is a global materials engineering organization with offices and manufacturing facilities located in the United States, United Kingdom and France with close to 500 employees.

By joining with Wall Colmonoy, Franklin Bronze integrate expertise, sales and marketing teams and business goals. Wall Colmonoy and Franklin Bronze share the vision of delivering world-class technical expertise and support to customers.