Press information

Lost Foam Council e.V.

Enthusiastic Participants at the International Symposium „Lost Foam Casting - What‘s Up?

Münster, January 9, 2019. **The international symposium Lost Foam Casting - What‘s up?, which took place last November in Bremen, not only offered the opportunity to get to know application areas of this technology through practical insights, but also left plenty of room for discussions about current market developments.**

Over 60 participants from all over the world took the opportunity to network at the symposium

Exciting presentations by J. Villareal (Mexico) on the development of a complete market-ready process chain under his own management, by G. Peng (China), H. von der Weiden (NL) and K. Cermak (GER) on the status of the Lost Foam casting production in China – particularly impressive XXL castings of up to 500 kg – and by Dr. J. Wiesenmüller (GER) and R. Kljinsma (NL) on quality casting from Europe revealed impressive facts and trends. New research topics were also brought into focus. M. Wallum (USA) introduced a new EPS, which enables particularly thin wall thicknesses and smooth casting surfaces. From the currently intensive development work of the Fraunhofer IFAM in Bremen, J. Clausen presented the pattern production from wood foam. The vision: A „green foundry“ that is particularly environmentally friendly due to the use of renewable raw materials. All technical aspects of the process chain were presented as part of a guided tour in the rooms of the Fraunhofer IFAM with real plant technology.

The aim of the expert meeting was an international exchange on the lost foam procedure with insights into the activities of the respective countries. As a result, it became clear that Russia, Ukraine, Iran, the USA and China are no longer lagging behind, but have overtaken Europe as the leadership force. The participants from all over the world were enthusiastic about the possibility of networking with the international specialists. The trend-setting contributions, such as that by M. Miller (USA) on the subject of pattern production, met with particularly high interest. Miller presented components created by 3D printing and showed their casting results.

About the Lost Foam Casting Procedure:
The Lost Foam procedure (LFP) is a casting procedure for the production of predominantly particularly complex metal components, which cannot be manufactured at all or only with large expenditure with other methods. First, the component is divided into individual undercut-free segments. These individual segments are foamed in an expandable polymer, joined together to form a pattern and then embedded in binderless molding sand. By pouring in the molten metal, the pattern decomposes completely. This „loss“ of the foam pattern during casting gives the Lost Foam process its name. The result is a detailed, usable metal copy of the polymer foam pattern.

About the Lost Foam Council:
As a mediator between business, industry, research and politics, the Lost Foam Council e. V. promotes the scientific and technological further development of the Lost Foam casting procedure (LFP) worldwide. Its current members are 14 companies and institutions which have integrated the procedure into their process chain in the production of prototypes, small series or large series, or which produce special materials and plant technology for the procedure.

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