

# **Investment Casting Industry in Japan**

**Coventry 1991**



## INVESTMENT CASTING INDUSTRY IN JAPAN

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### 1. Number of foundries

There are due to date approximately 80 investment casting foundries including small size art foundries.

### 2. Total turnover

The total turnover for the Japanese investment casting industry is between £230M and £250M.

### 3. Split of turnover

The approximate split of turnover between aerospace and commercial castings is as follows: -

Aerospace	£30M - £33M
Commercial	£200M - £217M

### 4. Number of employees

The approximate number of employees in the industry is 4600 – 5200. The main foundries and the numbers they employ are: -

Hitachi	650
NPC	400
IHI	250
Mitsubishi Steel	230
Komatsu	220
Mitsubishi Materials	200
Daido Steel	120

### 5. The major range of metals cast and the approximate turnover for each: -

Ferrous	£112M
Stainless	£63M
Magnet (3% S1 Fe)	£18M
Aluminium alloy	£20M
Magnesium alloy	£0.5M
Titanium alloy	£9M
Copper base alloy	£8M

**6. How the Japanese investment casting industry is developing**

- i) No new foundries have been established this year
- ii) There is a greater tendency for foundries to look towards automation and mechanisation.
- iii) The range of metals cast has already been mentioned. However recently there has been interest in casting more titanium alloy.

**7. The main markets and the individual turnover of these are as follows: -**

a) Engineering machinery	£40M
b) Aerospace	£31M
c) Electronics and communications equipment	£30M
d) Power plant including nuclear parts	£26M
e) Automobile industry	£25M
f) Sports and leisure	£15M
g) Sewing machine	£13M
h) Measurement instruments	£13M
i) Building parts interior and exterior	£9M
j) Valve and chemical equipment	£9M
k) Medical instruments and machinery	£4M

**8. This year a growth of 5 to 10% is predicted for the industry**

**9. The Japanese industry is organised into 3 main associations representing investment-casting interests: -**

- a) Japan Foundrymen's Association
- b) Japan Association of Casting Technology (JACT)
- c) Japan Forging and Casting Association

The so called big 6 foundries. Hitachi, NPC, IHI, Komatsu, Daido and Mitsubishi are now forming private social gatherings once every month or two.

This concludes the information and I hope it has helped to update the details Roger discussed in his lecture.