

Hitachi Metals Reduces Marginal Blasting Costs by 33%

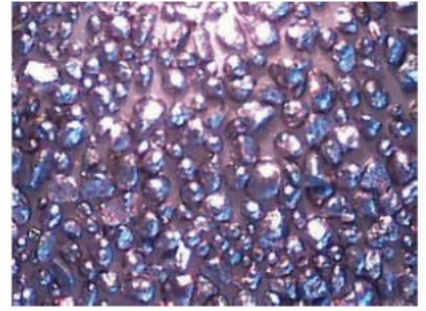
Ductile iron caster Hitachi Metals Automotive Components USA LLC (HMAC), Lawrenceville, Pa., recently switched from W Abrasives' S550 steel shot to the supplier's HPG 6 material. Although the company was not experiencing any operational challenges within the blasting phase of its operations, switching to the new shot resulted in a 33% reduction in marginal blasting costs (including abrasives, common costs, management, manpower maintenance, spare parts, wear parts and energy), reaching tens of thousands of dollars in savings.

HMAC is an automotive casting facility with a manufacturing/machining location in Wellsboro, Pa., and an additional manufacturing/machining plant in Effingham, Ill. Its product mix consists of safety suspension components and

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brackets for customers like Ford, Chrysler, General Motors, BMW, Mazda, Nissan, Subaru, Mitsubishi, Honda, VW and others.

HPG is a soft, high-carbon steel grit with sharp, angular grains and narrow size distribution. With technical support provided by W Abrasives, HMAC began an HPG 6 trial in one of its seven-wheel Disa blasting machines at its casting facility. W Abrasives technical experts analyzed the conditions of the machine, the operating mix, the efficiency of the process, the results achieved and the total cost of the operation. With the new high performance grit, HMAC found it could operate the machine with five wheels, shutting down the other two, and achieve better efficiency than with the S550 steel shot. In addition to the



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shutdown of these two wheels, the life of each blasting wheel was extended by one week.

"HMAC is an industry leader in providing ductile iron safety critical castings to the automotive market, and our relationship with W Abrasives has enhanced that position," said Robert Harter, vice president of manufacturing.

Following the trial of HPG 6, HMAC has fully converted one blasting machine to this operating mix and is in the process of introducing HPG into its second blasting machine. **MC**

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