

SecoWarwick to deploy augmented reality technology

SecoWarwick is preparing to deploy the Microsoft HoloLens augmented reality technology in its operations worldwide. The SecoWarwick application will be one of the first in the world, and the first in the heavy industry.

Holographic goggles by Microsoft were originally conceived as a top-secret project. It is not a surprise since the AR (Augmented Reality) technologies have been enjoying increasing interest in commercial applications and is among one of the most prominent new technologies global players have been continuously researching and developing. Holographic solutions naturally targeted the gaming market as early adapters. This technology, however, has gained interest among heavy industry representatives, including SecoWarwick.

"This is a new era of SecoWarwick equipment application – the interaction era. Probably nobody could envision that cyber goggles, which naturally apply to gaming, can be used in the metallurgy industry so soon after the introduction of the technology. The implementation of virtual technology

to our production, maintenance and service processes has become reality", says Katarzyna Sawka, SecoWarwick Group Marketing Director.

SecoWarwick has always had a special interest in new technologies due to its innovative culture; hence the company immediately identified the HoloLens technical potential and has taken steps to practical implementation of the technology globally. The synergy of both heavy industry and holographic solutions may completely redefine the metallurgy and heat treatment market. It has been believed for long that new technologies in metallurgy industry are not only impractical but also obsolete. The implementation of virtual technologies for the production, maintenance and servicing of SecoWarwick solutions is already a reality.

HoloLens is a device fitted on the head and equipped with a number of sensors, processor and screen in one. The cyber goggles are designed to implement previously mapped 3D models to the real time view.

"Deployment of virtual technologies to production, training and servicing of our

devices globally is going to result in substantial benefits for us and our clients. We are counting on increasing the intuitiveness of our equipment servicing, mobility, effectiveness and shortening our technicians reaction times", explains Paweł Wyrzykowski, CEO of SecoWarwick Group.

SecoWarwick has a proven record of an innovative approach to business. It spends millions of dollars annually for research and development, leads in national and international business innovation rankings, constantly patents its solutions and cooperates with Technical Universities all over the world. Thanks to this commitment, the company has a solid leadership position within the industry in over 70 countries worldwide. The company is reaching for the high-end IT solutions to continue to evolve in-house technical capabilities. Currently SecoWarwick is working on the application specification and functions based on the technical capabilities of the newest development version of HoloLens which has been available on the market for just a month.

ASK Chemicals builds Mexican production facility

ASK Chemicals has approved the construction of a Mexican production facility in the Monterrey area that will produce binders, refractory coatings, and riser sleeves for the growing Mexican foundry industry.

The facility will be strategically located in the Monterrey, Mexico area in the wake of a thorough analysis of current and future foundry customers. The new plant will produce cold box and no bake binders, refractory based coatings, and EXACTCAST riser sleeves. The new Mexican plant will complement ASK Chemicals' existing facilities in the United States, bringing its portfolio of foundry solutions alongside the Mexican foundries. Further, ASK will co-locate development laboratories in order to bring the

company's longstanding record of innovation closer to the growing Mexican market. ASK Chemicals has projected that the facility will be completed in the 4th quarter of 2017, with production commencing immediately. ASK Chemicals will install binder capacity in excess of 30,000 t in order to fully meet all current and future growth of the Mexican market. ASK Chemicals' coatings plant will be built to produce 10,000 t. Given the strong growth of the Mexican casting market, the foundry supplier will install infrastructure for multiple riser sleeve machines with an initial capacity of more than 5,000,000 pieces.

As Luiz Totti, Executive Vice President (Americas), has stated: "We are committed to the Mexican foundry industry and to pro-

viding them an unmatched value proposition. We are excited about our new facility and the benefits it will bring to our valued customers."

Casting production in Mexico has become increasingly attractive due to its favourable investment conditions: an increasingly well-prepared work force, casting know-how/expertise, proximity to major markets (e.g. USA), and a growing accessibility to premium foundry consumables. Several major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) are already present in Mexico, with more on the way. Furthermore, forecasts predict automotive light vehicle production – a key casting indicator – to exceed five million units by 2023, a 48 % increase (LMC Automotive Ltd.).