Thermal Analysis Seminar in Düsseldorf

Three happy gentlemen from England, Malcolm MacNaughtan and Andrew Bunting from Precision Disc Casting and Don Tittensor from A & S

NovaCast Foundry Solutions hosted a Thermal Analysis Seminar in Düsseldorf, Germany on November 30 – December 1, 2010. Nearly 60 persons from the foundry industry from Europe, the USA, India and Taiwan participated in this event. Some couldn't make it due to heavy snowfall and closed airports.

The underlying theme of the seminar was feederless casting, a complex subject that needs to be treated from various perspectives. Seminar presentations outlined the challenges and difficulties that technical staff in a foundry face every day. Discussions about optimal process paths for production of different components in grey, ductile and compacted graphite irons were very educational and stimulating. "Learning by discussing" ruled at the seminar.

It is well known that a large number of parameters must be controlled in order to increase the consistency of the metallurgical process. If you strive to improve anything in a foundry you need to be able to measure it first. Thermal analysis instruments such as NovaCast Foundry Solutions' ATAS (Adaptive Thermal Analysis System) are therefore becoming necessary for implementing improvements in the foundry metallurgical process. As one speaker concluded, "Take the guesswork out of making ductile iron, get ATAS".

Of course there are drawbacks and limitations when using thermal analysis tools and instruments. Seminar participants who had already implemented ATAS in their process could give valuable advice to future users, "You need to commit your people to thermal analysis. You need to educate technical staff and your metallurgists. ATAS is an instrument. It will not fix your process on its own. The operator in cooperation with the instrument needs to do it." This is one of the most important lessons learned from the Dusseldorf seminar.

Thermal analysis is one of the most important tools for analyzing, stabilizing and optimizing the metallurgical process. By implementing thermal analysis in production foundries can increase their competitiveness in terms of a consistent metallurgical process.