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Press Release

American Trim Takes Delivery of a New, More Powerful Capacitor Bank to Support its Growing Electromagnetic Forming Business

American Trim will use the more powerful capacitor bank to increase its capability to form high strength steel and other alloys and potentially replace traditional stamping methods

Lima, Ohio – April 5, 2010

American Trim announced it has received its 90 kilojoules capacitor bank from EWI out of Columbus, OH to support its expanding electromagnetic forming business. American Trim and EWI both recognize the potential for EMF and Magnetic Pulse Welding (MPW) as emerging technologies.

"MPW allows unique utilization of materials and fabrication with dissimilar material combinations not found in industry today," said Dr. Jerry Gould, Technology Leader, EWI. "EMF techniques studied at EWI and American Trim likewise allow for the precision forming of materials in ways previously unimaginable."

The new capacitor bank will expand American Trim's offering; the 90 kJ unit will join a 2-24 kJ banks, 16 kJ bank, 6 kJ bank and 1.2 kJ bank already in operation at the Company.

"This new capacitor bank signals our commitment to continue to advance the technology to a much greater audience," said Steve Hatkevich, Director of Research and Development for American Trim. "We have been working closely with our existing and several new clients on a diverse set of applications including crimping and decorative stamping and soon will launch a production line supporting those applications. The promise of EMF in terms of precision forming, uniform strain distribution of the material and cost reduction is being delivered."

About Electromagnetic Forming

Electromagnetic forming uses electrical energy which is stored in a capacitor bank and released through an actuator to form a part. The part is accelerated to a speed of up to 150 meters per second. This acceleration renders the part into a hyperplastic state which permits a very precise and uniform deformation of the substrate.

American Trim has advanced the technology commercially in the areas of crimping and high precision, low stress stamping for decorative aluminum material as well as stainless steel fuel cell bipolar plates.

Inquiries for the technology should be directed to John Swigard, Director of Marketing for American Trim at jswigard@amtrim.com.

About American Trim

American Trim was founded in 1951 and specializes in the forming, decorating, and coating of metal and composite substrates. These core competencies are supported and enhanced by American Trim's Design, Research and Development activities ensuring the most advanced and cost effective solutions for its customer partners.

About EWI

EWI is a leading engineering and technology organization dedicated to materials joining and allied technologies. We provide applied research, manufacturing support, and strategic services to nearly 2,800 member company locations of global leaders in the aerospace, automotive, defense, energy and chemical, government, heavy manufacturing, and electronics industries. Visit ewi.org for more information.

