

Press Release

Schaffhausen/Suzhou, October 26, 2005

New light metal foundry in Suzhou inaugurated

GF Automotive manufacturing in China as supplier to the local automotive industry

After a short construction period, the new light metal foundry in Suzhou, China was officially inaugurated on 26 October. The ceremony was attended by the senior officers of the Georg Fischer corporation, Schaffhausen, official representatives from China and Switzerland, customers, employees and business partners. The plant began operation in mid-August, and the machinery is being gradually expanded. With its modern plant for diecast aluminium and magnesium components, GF Automotive has the timing just right to benefit from the fast-growing Chinese market and implement its strategy. The Suzhou plant enjoys high capacity utilization, with orders coming from European and Chinese customers from the local automotive industry who increasingly want to draw on the innovative casting technology of Georg Fischer in China. To meet specific customer needs, Suzhou is also developing products.

With the new light metal foundry in Suzhou now in operation, the old foundry in Zhangjiagang, which no longer meets modern requirements and had reached its capacity limits, can be shut down. Most of the 40 permanent employees will move from the old plant to the new one in Suzhou. The new foundry puts Georg Fischer into a strategically important position that will enable it to grow together with the expanding local automotive industry, which is increasingly exporting. The modern plant – built of concrete, aluminium and glass – sets new standards in the casting industry. The plant has been designed so that Georg Fischer can invest in expansion gradually and in line with market demand, thus avoiding unnecessary financial risks. The overall plan calls for maximum expansion to four building modules with about 24 casting machines. The new foundry is located about 100 km to the west of Shanghai in the 240 sq. kilometre Suzhou Industrial Park, which boasts outstanding infrastructure and very good road, rail and logistics connections.

Georg Fischer is present in China with all three of its Corporate Groups (GF Automotive, GF Piping Systems und GF Machine Tools). In 2004 it generated sales of about CHF 240 million in China with some 1,300 employees at 14 different locations (of which 9 are production sites). Last year the Georg Fischer Corporation posted total sales of CHF 3.5 billion worldwide.

Corporate Profile Georg Fischer - "Adding Quality to People's Lives"

Georg Fischer, Schaffhausen, Switzerland, is an international industrial corporation that has 12,000 employees at 140 sites as well as 50 production facilities and generates annual sales of around 3.5 billion CHF. The Corporation makes a direct contribution to the quality of life. As people become increasingly mobile, they have ever greater demands for comfort and safety in their vehicles. With its heavy-duty cast parts made of light metal and iron, **GF Automotive** makes it possible to build lightweight passenger and commercial vehicles. A reliable supply of clean water is becoming a crucial challenge.

GF Piping Systems facilitates the supply of drinking water worldwide and enables the safe transport of liquids and gases for industrial purposes. Large-scale production of consumer goods requires great precision and demanding manufacturing technologies. **GF Machine Tools** provides machines and system solutions to manufacture the necessary moulds and tools.

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