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Finance Secretary discovers secret of Scottish enterprise at Rautomead

Scottish Government Finance Secretary John Swinney recently visited continuous casting technology specialists Rautomead Limited in Dundee to learn more about its growth ambitions.

During Mr Swinney's visit, accompanied by representatives of Scottish Enterprise, he heard about the company's business scope, international trade successes, and strategic ambitions from Rautomead's MD, Brian Frame, and Chairman, Sir Michael Nairn.

Established in 1978, Rautomead designs and manufactures continuous casting equipment for the wire & cable industry, the foundry industry and for precious metals. The company works closely with the government-funded business support organization Scottish Enterprise, who most recently provided research and development support and international development assistance.

Rautomead has a world-wide marketing presence, with customer installations in 43 countries. Most important regional markets are presently in China, Japan, Thailand, Germany, USA and Brazil. In 2010 the company increased staffing levels from 36 to 50 employees, an increase of almost 40 per cent.

Rautomead Limited
Continuous Casting Technology
PO Box 100
Dundee DD1 9QY
Scotland

t: (44) 1382 622341
f: (44) 1382 622941

sales@rautomead.com
www.rautomead.com

Sir Michael said that the timing of the Minister's visit was fortuitous indeed, coinciding as it did with confirmation of a new seven figure order for a copper rod casting machine from Brazil. Mr Swinney showed keen interest in Rautomead's research & development work. The directors stressed the importance of continuous technical innovation as absolutely essential to keep the company's technology ahead of international competition. Brian Frame emphasised the advantages of close working relationships with Universities and Colleges and the pressing need for them to develop appropriate courses for the young engineers and technicians for the future.

Mr Swinney was also shown two large completed copper rod casting machines undergoing final testing in the company's assembly shop.

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For more press information, contact:

Rautomead Limited

P O Box 100

Dundee DD1 9QY

Scotland, U.K.

E-mail: sales@rautomead.com

Tel: + 44 1382 622341

Fax: + 44 1382 622941

www.rautomead.com