

press release

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RAUTOMEAD AWARDED MEDALS FOR US ARMY

Silver Towne Mint of Winchester, Indiana, USA has recently taken delivery of a new precious metals casting machine to cast silver strip from continuous casting technology specialist Rautomead Limited of Scotland.

The new machine is a model RMT 200 and the initial casting configuration will be to produce two strands of 2.25" x 0.25" silver strip simultaneously.

As a specialist manufacturer of silver and gold coins and medallions, Silver Towne has prestigious contracts with the US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Sheriffs, Police, Fire and Rescue Services.

The investment in Rautomead will represent a major upgrade and modernization of Silver Towne's silver production capabilities.

Silver Towne Mint: rising to the 'challenge'

Silver Towne has been producing high quality precious metal gifts since 1949. Born out of the US military tradition of the 'Challenge coin' dating back to World War One, the practice of presenting coins as a form of identification in the US has rapidly spread to the police, fire and rescue services, churches and public servants. Many businesses have also now adopted the practice of presenting one-ounce silver and gold medallions to impress their clients and business associates with a valuable and lasting memento.

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The company's products include commemorative coins & medallions made from gold, 999 fine silver and non-precious metals such as bronze, nickel silver and copper.

In 1983, the company expanded and opened a new custom minting and silver manufacturing facility. By selecting Rautomead technology for the modernisation of silver production, Silver Towne Mint join many of the other leading Mints and precious metal coin manufacturing companies around the world using Rautomead technology for the casting of their gold and silver. These include: the Sunshine Mint, Royal Canadian Mint, Shanghai Mint, Perth Mint Australia, Royal Thai Mint and the Rand Refinery in South Africa amongst others.

Graphite crucible technology

Rautomead's unique casting process is based on the use of a graphite holding crucible, surrounded by electric resistance heating elements to provide the power to melt and hold the metal charge. Heating is by thermal radiation and heat convection. The interior of the machine is protected in an inert gas atmosphere to protect the hot-working graphite components.

Robust, reliable and safe

Though many features of the Rautomead process, especially the withdrawal mechanisms and controls, have been developed and refined over the years, the basic furnace design remains as it was originally designed, over twenty years ago. These machines have proved so robust, reliable and safe to operate that many of the early machines are still in daily use today.

Oxygen-reducing

Silver has a strong propensity to attract oxygen in the molten state. The totally enclosed nature of the Rautomead process, where the molten metal is in contact only with the pure carbon surfaces of the holding crucible and casting die, is a particularly suitable process for casting silver and eliminating any residual oxygen present. An additional feature is the still metal bath created by the external resistance heating elements, thus avoiding the turbulence associated with many induction heating systems in close proximity to the casting die.

A mint performance

Rautomead has supplied over 150 continuous casting machines for the processing of gold and silver alloys for coinage strip, jewellery, electronics and dental alloy applications all around the world. The unique features of these machines are conducive to the production of the highest quality, blemish-free silver strip and make Rautomead the natural choice for any mint.

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(Photo caption)

The Rautomead RMT 200 horizontal continuous casting machine