

**New York State  
Environmental Investment Program  
Capital Project Summary  
Oberdorfer, LLC**

**Background**

Oberdorfer, LLC casts complex aluminum parts for the aerospace, aviation, light truck and utility industries in a 250,000 square-foot facility in Syracuse, NY. Citation Corporation purchased Oberdorfer LLC in 1995, and invested \$10 million to upgrade its casting operation. Advanced Metals Group then bought Oberdorfer from Citation in 1999, and remains the current owner. At the time this capital investment was proposed, Oberdorfer was responsible for producing 80% of the small engine airplane cylinder heads made in the US.

Citation's 1996 casting system upgrade included a mechanical mold sand reclamation system that would break up the molds and allow for the recovery and reuse of 6,500 tons of sand per year. The sand, which represented 80% of Oberdorfer's annual sand requirement, would be reused for making new molds, saving approximately \$351,000 on avoided sand disposal and new sand purchases. Mechanical reclamation, however, did not remove any binder material, which is used to bind the sand in the mold-making process. It only broke up the molds. As a result, the company still had to send a portion of its used sand to a LaFarge cement plant in Quebec, where the kiln operated at temperatures high enough to burn off the remaining binder.

**Project Description**

In October, 2004, Oberdorfer LLC bought a used Gudgeon Thermfire 3000 thermal reclamation system, which would now allow the plant to reclaim almost all of the sand used there. The spent sand would first pass through a mechanical reclaiming and

then the thermal reclamation system would burn the chemical binder off the sand using preheated fluidized air.

Initially, the project was delayed due to a series of unanticipated events. Extreme weather conditions at the site where the reclaiming had been previously located prevented its timely disassembly. Subsequently, Oberdorfer needed to relocate a sand storage silo outside after it was discovered that the building where it was to go could not accommodate it (requiring a cement pad and additional piping to properly integrate the silo with the rest of the facility). Also, in July 2005, the Town of DeWitt's drainage system failed due to heavy rains. Oberdorfer's facility was flooded, and the company incurred damages of over \$100,000. Finally Hurricane Rita hit Advanced Metal's facility in Beaumont, TX, which became inoperable, and the business pulled employees from its other facilities across the US to assist in restarting Beaumont. The thermal reclamation system finally became operational in April, 2007.

**Project Results**

The project target was to reclaim an additional 2,940 tons of sand per year, and avoid purchase and disposal costs of \$233,730 per year. By the close of the project, Oberdorfer was reclaiming the equivalent of 2,752 tons of sand per year, saving approximately \$238,460 per year. These savings have occurred despite the fact that Oberdorfer's sales have not increased to the degree anticipated when the project started.

<b>Contractor:</b>	Onondaga County Industrial Development Authority	<b>NYS EIP Investment:</b>	\$117,586
<b>County:</b>	Onondaga	<b>Contractor Match</b>	\$119,026
<b>ESD Region</b>	Central New York	<b>Total:</b>	\$236,612
<b>ESD Contact:</b>	518/292-5340	<b>Completion Date:</b>	March , 2007