



“This is the power of IIF – the ability to take foundrymen’s problems and use our collective experience and connectivity to find innovative and effective solutions to them.”

President’s Communiqué

Dear Fellow Foundrymen,

By the time this issue reaches your hands, most of us will be struggling with year-ending pressures to meet targets and ship products out to customers before 31st March. The year has been a tough one for industry in general, particularly for smaller foundries, which have had a sudden hiccup in production in the last few months due to demonetisation, but thankfully that bridge has been crossed and cash shortages and restrictions are now a thing of the past.

For some industries at least, there seems to be some much-awaited light at the end of the tunnel with the signs of upward growth in the automotive sector, and hopeful rumblings of a good monsoon to come, which will lead to a spurt in tractor demand. Rural India still plays a key role in the Indian economy, and agricultural demand for castings for tractors, pumps, gensets, ploughs, shears, flywheels, threshers and crushers is what pays the bills for many of us in the foundry industry. The defence sector has also been sending out positive signals with high potential for casting demand for gun parts, weapon systems, tank components, shipbuilding items and so on. And with work having started on railway freight corridors across the country, a string of new ports coming up in eastern India, and new cities springing up along the rail freight network, the earthmoving equipment industry is gearing up for better days, with consequent flowback of demand to foundries who are waiting to fill orders.

Although things might seem a bit calmer in IIF after the excitement of the Indian Foundry Congress in February, the Institute is still working hard for its members with numerous initiatives quietly humming along in the background towards their end goals. One such initiative is a project that IIF is working on with the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) to assess the utilisation of used foundry sand for making rural roads by the National Rural Roads Development Authority (NRRDA). This would not only solve a major issue that foundries face in terms of disposal of their used sand, but would in fact effectively turn a waste product into a revenue stream by creating a demand for it in the road construction industry. This project is at a preliminary stage and we are keeping our fingers crossed that by next year we should see some positive results.

Another initiative that IIF has undertaken very successfully over the past few years is the CEO Meet, where owners and top management from foundries across the country meet with IIF National Council members and discuss the health of the industry, future growth prospects, opportunities and threats on the global stage, and problems being faced by them. In many of these problem areas, IIF has been able to intervene and play a role in solving them through government policy outreach, through local regulatory bodies or through IIF’s own internal facilities and programmes. In fact, the CRRI foundry sand recycling initiative arose out of one such CEO Meet discussion where a combination of the right people sitting together at the right place and time put their heads together and came up with a creative solution to a sticky problem.

This is the power of IIF – the ability to take foundrymen’s problems and use our collective experience and connectivity to find innovative and effective solutions to them, and serve as a true demonstration that the whole can be more the sum of its parts. As the old year unfolds into the new, all of us as IIF members should ask ourselves how we can get more involved with the organisation and come forward with not just problems, not even just solutions, but the powerful and amazing ability to connect and create progress itself.

Anil Vaswani
President, 2016-17
The Institute of Indian Foundrymen