

Continental Automotive France Combining expertise and reactivity

In less than two months, Continental Automotive France obtained a complete assessment of the metallurgical characteristics and the manufacturing mode of components used in engines in order to optimise manufacturing of sintered steel parts using powder metallurgy technology.

Continental Automotive France produces high pressure fuel pumps in particular which are connected to the engine by a steel part manufactured in Italy through powder metallurgy. This part plays a key role in the reliability of the end vehicle. The company wanted to carry out a complex and urgent product optimisation operation by analysing its metallurgical characteristics and the manufacturing process. *"This project was carried out on a European scale in record time due to the involvement of all the stakeholders in France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy commented a very proud Christian Niggel, supplier quality manager*

at Continental Automotive France. This project could not have been carried out to its fullest without Cetim's expertise, multidisciplinary and reactivity".

A general effort

Cetim's powder metallurgy, compacting, sintering and non-destructive testing specialists combined their efforts and their expertise to obtain this result in under two months. Several improvements relating to the design and metallurgical quality of parts were proposed from the first work meeting late May 2009. After several work meetings, the participants in the improvement action met late June on the Italian



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manufacturer's site in order to co-analyse the manufacturing process. The "debriefing" took place immediately after by means of a "net meeting". A consensus was reached concerning the methods of consolidating the mechanical quality of the part (optimisation of process parameters, reinforcement of the check procedure) due to this pooling of expertise. The Non-Destructive Tests (NDT) which were undertaken at the same time showed that ultrasounds provided relevant results to ensure the quality of the parts produced. This breakthrough led Continental Automotive France to entrust Cetim with the development and conception of a new NDT method by sampling, which was implemented late September.

OUR CUSTOMER

Corporate name

Continental Automotive France SAS

Activity

Continental Automotive France designs and produces electronic components and systems for the automobile industry

Sales turnover

EUR 646 million

Workforce

2,800 people

Cetim's asset

Cetim brings together a very wide range of high level specialists on its various sites and on the sites of its associated centres. This allows it to very reactively respond to the most complex expert's analyses demands from the industrial partners in the mechanical industry in a genuine multidisciplinary framework.

