

February 2008

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Derek Foster and Foster Magnetics Begin Manufacturing Transformers and Inductors in China

Foster Magnetics, based in Houston, Texas, has begun building its new plant in Yangzhou, China, which is expected to be online in March 2008. Derek Foster, the President of Foster Magnetics, is a renowned designer of dry-type transformers and inductors for a number of industries, including the maritime and offshore sectors. He is chairman of the IEEE Transformers Committee Working Group for ANSI/IEEE Standard C57.12.91 - IEEE Standard Test Code for Dry-Type Distribution and Power Transformers, and is the Transformers Committee representative on the IEEE Technical Committee Advisory Board.

Born and educated in England, Foster is an Incorporated Engineer and a member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology in the UK. He entered the transformer industry in 1974 and has since become a leading designer and manufacturer of specialty transformers and inductors. Currently, Foster is supplying electrical products for BOURBON Offshore's Liberty Series, which is being built at Sino-Pacific Shipyards in China, and for Rigdon

Marine Corporation's 4000 Class Platform Support Vessels being built at Bollinger Shipyards in Lockport, Louisiana.

John Janik, President and CEO of EPD, Inc. (Houston) and EPD Asia (Yangzhou, China), whose company revolutionized power controls for vessels by designing a protective containerized system, and Foster have formed an intellectual partnership called Foster Magnetics. Since transformers and inductors are major components in the power systems produced by the EPD group, Janik and Foster took control of the design and manufacturing of these critical and essential products to ensure availability and technological quality.

Foster Magnetics is currently manufacturing in Houston, Texas and constructing a 45,000-square-foot plant in Yangzhou, China near the EPD Asia facility in the Economic Zone of the region. Foster points out that, in addition to supplying products for the marine industry, the company also supports systems requiring dry-type transformers for manufacturing companies, commercial buildings, origi-

nal equipment manufacturers and any application requiring transformers and inductors. Foster Magnetics was recently selected to manufacture water-cooled, high-current inductors for the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory operated by Florida State University.

MarEx asked Foster about some of his better-known projects. Among others, he designed the transformers powering the drilling machines for the construction of the French-UK Channel Tunnel (the "Chunnel"). Following the 1987 fire in the London Underground, he was engaged in the design of fire-resistant transformers for the rail network. Foster eventually came to the U.S. after being hired by Olsun Electric of Richmond, Illinois, where he worked for 13 years prior to opening Foster Magnetics.



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