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## CEO INTERVIEW

# Casting a Look upon Turkish Castings

In 1963 the establishment of Gedik Welding as a manufacturer of welding consumables in Turkey was a fact and the foundation for Gedik Holding was laid. Gedik Welding was a success and soon became a leader in the Turkish welding sector. Four years later Gedik Casting & Valve Company was founded. Over the years Gedik Holding has expanded into many other industries, but welding and casting & valve are still considered to be the two core businesses. After meeting Gedik's CEO Mr. Mustafa Koçak at the NewCast in Dusseldorf CFN got in touch with him again to ask some questions on the Turkish casting industry.

For KCI-Publishing by Leyla Akgün

### Gedik Casting & Valve

Both casting and welding are related to the metal industries and over the years Gedik has expanded their technologies and production capacities in both industrial sectors. "As an addition to the existing conventional sand casting we later added Investment Casting activities to Gedik Casting and Valve Company. Nowadays we use some of our sand casting capacity for our own valve production under the trade name TERMO which is the oldest valve company in Turkey." Gedik provides sand and investment casting parts to various industrial sectors with ever increasing demand for casting, nevertheless casting will also always be an integral part of their valve production.

### Approved

Gedik Casting&Valve is very much involved in the future of the industry in Turkey and new Gedik Casting facilities will be open to other valve producing companies. Gedik uses modern techniques including simulation programs for casting valve bodies and parts as well as a flow simulation program to achieve optimum flow inside the valves. Additionally, numerical and analytical tools are used to calculate the strength properties of the valves while optimizing the wall thickness of the

valve bodies. "We believe in working together and want to provide our modern facilities for innovative co-production projects." The company is an AD 2000-Wo and PED (Pressure Equipment Directive-97/23/EC) approved manufacturing company.

"We supply various industries in casting and valve, including chemical, water, natural gas, food, pressure



vessels, and ships etc." Gedik produces a wide range of valves: ball, butterfly, globe, check (lift, controlled and dual types) valves. "Recently, we have added various VG-Norm corrosion resistant valves for military and civil ships to our product range."

In the future Gedik will focus on API-Normed valves for oil and natural gas applications. "Pre-production series have already been produced and the certification process is now in progress."



### Economic crisis

When the economic crisis hit, Turkey had its fair share of problems, but Mr. Koçak proudly states that Gedik was "lucky enough not to have to let any employees go. In

work takes place in Istanbul and in addition to these industrial activities; we have made strong commitments to the education and training of young people. We have established a private

well as considerably reduce the time for prototype development. In addition to our own R&D department, we work with other Turkish universities to generate new knowledge using state funded R&D projects. In our company, we have a high percentage of young engineers and workers which is a reflection of the general workforce in Turkey. We also give basic and specialized education and training to our new talents, training them to work with our technologies and products. We have had no significant difficulty recruiting young and well-educated/trained talents in Turkey".

### Challenges

According to Mr. Koçak the biggest challenge the industry in Turkey faces today is related to cost-effectiveness. This has to do with the dominant competitiveness against cheaper but lower quality products which are currently on the market. "Turkey is a rapidly growing country with a well-trained work force. Hence, it is difficult to maintain competitive cost development against products of lower labor cost countries."

2009, we noticed the effects of the economic crises, like everybody else. Some of our customers experienced hard times and during the recession of 2009 we worked with a reduced capacity. In 2010 we added two new valves to our product range and now we are back to our former production capacity."

### Investing in the future

Both industrial activities employ approximately 1000 people under the name Gedik Holding. "All production

Gedik University where a technical subject such as engineering is an essential part of the curriculum, as are courses on welding, casting and automation & robotics." For many years Gedik has relied on their own R&D capabilities to develop and produce valves using new technologies, methods and designs. "We have invested in simulations during the casting and valve designs. These new capabilities enabled us to produce castings with less faulty parts as

