



# Metallurgy

Product Line Overview



**ASKCHEMICALS**  
We advance your casting



# Quality Products for Consistent Casting Results

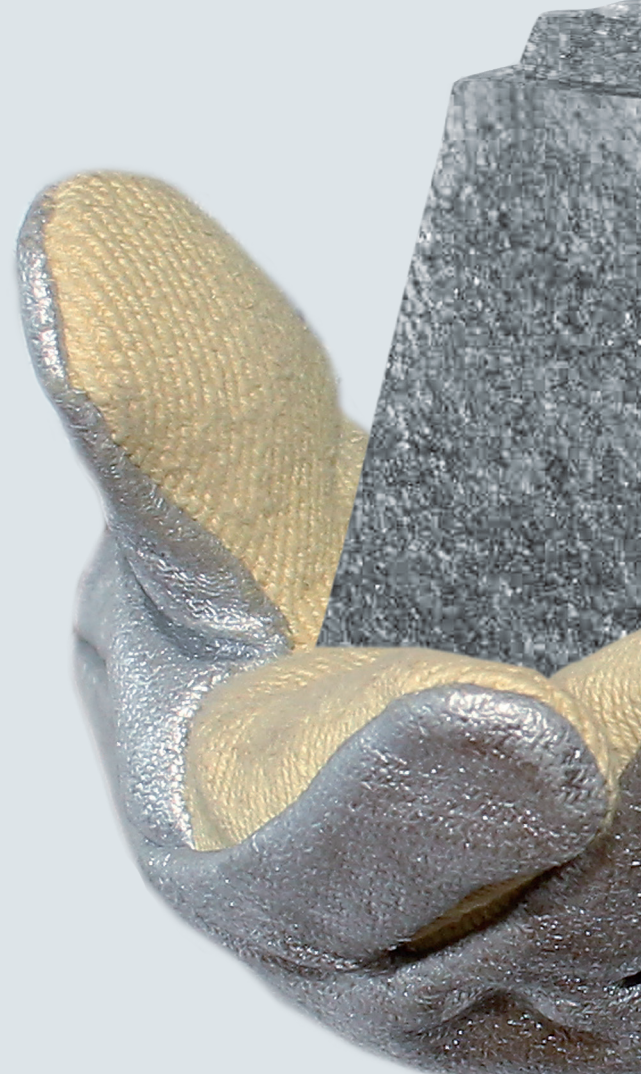
ASK Chemicals supplies and manufactures high-quality metallurgical products for the global foundry industry. From furnace-based alloys to late inoculation with solid cast inserts, our holistic products for iron casting provide guaranteed and consistent results. In addition, our metallurgists are true experts in their field. They work in close collaboration with Research & Development to launch new solutions for the foundry industry while continuing to enhance current products to ensure lasting customer value.

At ASK Chemicals we provide innovation-driven research through our product development approach. We focus specifically on market trends and customer demands because of the increasingly complex requirements our industry faces: reduced emissions, casting defect prevention, cost efficiency, as well as overall casting quality. Such requirements necessitate more than just strong partnerships and outstanding technologies; rather, we believe that first-class research and development that focuses on efficiency, environmentally friendly solutions and key performance parameters is essential.

In addition, we offer our customers a holistic approach that goes well beyond merely offering products. Our application technology and technical sales specialists, in particular, always assess the production process

as a whole. Only this approach allows for customer-specific solutions that are precisely tailored to meet customer requirements.

Finally, our specialists' expertise is complemented by a broad range of services that offers our customers real added value. In this way, for example, our design services can be systematically deployed to optimize the entire process – from conceptual development to actualized series production – thereby offering important savings and process improvement for our customers.



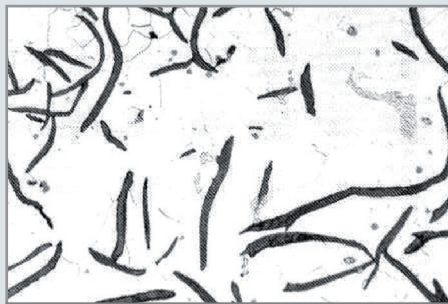




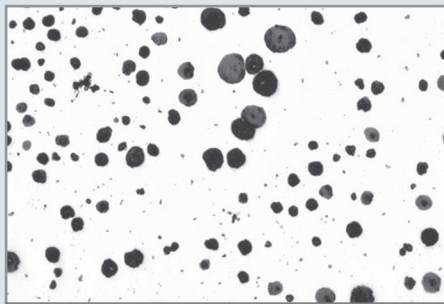
- Consistent quality
- In-house metallurgical production
- Global logistics
- Extensive product portfolio
- Holistic value added services

# Basic Information

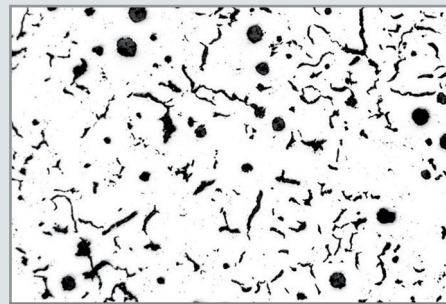
## Iron compositions by group



**Gray Iron** **GI**



**Ductile Iron** **DI**



**Compacted Graphite Iron** **CGI**

## Product overview

Melting shop	Melt preparation	SiC, FeMn, FeSi
	Pre-conditioning	DISPERSIT, Cerium misch metal (CerMM), VL (Ce)2
	Mg treatment	FeSiMg – Master alloy, NiMg – Master alloy INFORM – Mg treatment wires
Melt treatment	Inoculation	Ladle inoculants, Cored wire, In-stream inoculants, Mold inoculants GERMALLOY, OPTIGRAN, SMW-INSERT
	Melt cleaning	REMMOS, DISPERSIT
	Specialties	CerMM, FeS, CaC <sub>2</sub>

## General applications of metallurgical products

- Adjust iron composition
- Consistent casting quality
- Improved microstructure and mechanical properties

## Benefits of iron types

Within iron-producing foundries there are three primary forms of iron produced: gray, ductile & compacted.

### ➤ Gray Iron **GI**

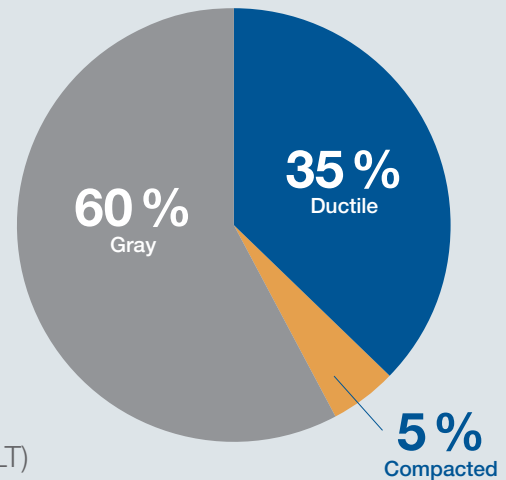
- Excellent vibration-damping properties
- Very good casting properties
- Inexpensive to manufacture
- Very good machining properties

### ➤ Ductile Iron **DI**

- Versatile mechanical properties, e.g. ferritic types of cast iron with high elongation and toughness (DI-400-18 LT) or pearlitic types of cast iron with a high tensile strength (DI-800-2)
- Lower costs compared to steel with approximately the same mechanical properties

### ➤ Compacted Graphite Iron **CGI**

- Withstands high application temperatures in combination with good thermal shock resistance
- Higher tensile strength, yield strength and elongation than that of GI
- Possibility of reduced wall thicknesses saves weight compared to GI



## Custom solutions

Apart from the system solutions mentioned in this brochure, ASK Chemicals also offers you custom solutions to fit your individual process. Please contact us to discuss your specific needs.

# Pre-conditioners

## Products that ensure a well-prepared base iron

Preconditioning establishes constant conditions in the molten metal. It is important to achieve a proper chemical composition of oxygen and sulfur, especially for the subsequent Mg-treatment processes. It is of utmost importance to achieve process stability, create a uniform base iron and improve the nucleation state of the molten metal. With the pre-conditioning products ASK Chemicals provides, all of this can be achieved. ASK Chemicals has a wide array of products within this segment to meet your every need.

## Benefits

- Improves process stability
- Ensures a uniform base iron

### Defect-inhibiting additive

DISPERSIT is an additive used primarily in the production of ductile iron. Relatively small addition levels can reduce slag and dross in your ductile iron. This product helps to keep ladle and furnace linings clean and free of slag.



### ASK Chemicals pre-conditioner products

Pre-conditioner	Iron	Application	Benefits
VL (Ce) 2	DI	Ladle	Reduces O <sub>2</sub> and S content in the base iron; forms atmospherically stable Ce-O-S compounds; boosts heterogeneous nucleation catalyst
DISPERSIT	DI, GI	Ladle	Purification of molten metal; reduction of slag on the ladles; reduction of dross and slag inclusions in castings
SilicoMM	DI, CGI	Ladle	Adjusts CerMM content; provides a pre-inoculation effect, i.e. improves nucleation characteristics of iron; produces iron that is more responsive to post-inoculation
CerMM	DI, CGI	Ladle	Introducible with alloy or as whole cubes; good at graphite modification; neutralization of interfering elements like lead, antimony, etc.

# Master alloys

## FeSiMg and NiMg

Magnesium treatment is a required step in the production of ductile (DI) iron and compacted (CGI) iron. The primary purpose of introducing magnesium to the molten metal is the formation of spherical graphite, also called spheroids or nodules. These graphite shapes, when produced correctly, are essential in providing the iron with the desired mechanical properties.

## Benefits

- Produced to the highest quality standards
- Critical elements maintained at narrow limits

Methods for introducing the master alloy



## Master alloys

FeSiMg type*	Typical composition				
	% by weight				
	Mg	Ca	CerMM	Si	La
VL 63 (M)	6.0–6.6**	1.9	0.7	45	–
VL 63 (O)	6.0–6.6**	1.9	–	45	–
VL 63 (M) TC	6.4–7.0	1.3	0.7	45	–
VL 63 (M) 3	6.0–6.6**	1.9	0.3	45	–
VL 63 EGT	6.0–6.6	1.9	0.15	45	–
VL 63 (M) T	6.0–6.6	3.0	1.0	45	–
VL 63 LA	6.2–6.8	1.8	–	45	0.5
VL 73 (M)	7.0–7.6	2.5	2.5	45	–
VL 73 (O)	7.0–7.6	2.5	–	45	–
VL 7	5.7–6.3	2.5	1.3	45	–
VL 53 (M)	9.0–11.0	2.0	0.7	44	–
VL 53 (O)	9.0–11.0	2.0	–	44	–
VL 53 (S)	8.0–9.5	3.0	3.5	43	–
VL 50 (M)	5.0–5.5	1.9	0.7	45	–
VL 50 (O)	5.0–5.5	1.9	–	45	–
Noduloy 3	3.8–4.3	0.5	1.3	45	–
Denodul 5	5.0–6.0	1.5	2.5	45	–

NiMg / type*	Typical composition						Lumpi-ness
	% by weight						mm
	Mg	C	Si	Fe	MM	Ni	
VL 1 (LC)	15–17.5	0.1 max.	2.0 max.	1.0 max.	–	Re-mainder	12–50 150 max.
VL 1 (M)	15–17.5	2.0 max.	2.0 max.	1.0 max.	1.0	Re-mainder	150 max.
VL 4 (M)	4.5–6.0	2.5 max.	2.5 max.	32–37	1.0	Re-mainder	Ingots 2.5 kg or 0.8 kg
VL 4 (O)	4.5–6.0	2.5 max.	2.5 max.	32–37	–	Re-mainder	

\* Other VL types on request

\* Separate analyses on request, \*\* Exception for grain size 0.125–1 mm: 5.4–6.0% Mg



# Cored wire

## INFORM M for magnesium treatment

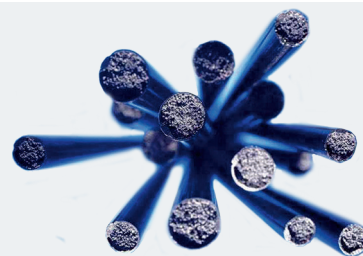
INFORM M cored wires are a highly effective and reliable method for introducing magnesium to molten metal. These highly innovative wires are designed in multiple diameters. They are extremely easy to handle and ideal for automation processes. ASK Chemicals INFORM M cored wires are produced to the highest quality standards.

### Benefits

- Well-adjusted compositions to your specific foundry needs
- Reduced addition rates and exact dosing
- Simple handling, easy to automate
- Good traceability and documentation
- Lower silicon addition – lower temperature loss

#### Mg cored wire treatment for DI and CGI

The cored wire practice offers flexibility with regard to changing conditions such as the sulfur content, treatment temperature, and iron quantity. Additionally, consistent Mg values can be achieved despite varying sulfur values and treatment temperatures. Lastly, handling and treatment costs can be reduced significantly. Capturing the effluent makes cored wire environmentally friendly.



#### Classification of Mg-treatment wires

Wire content	Diameter	Base iron	Application
Pure magnesium	9 mm, 13 mm	Cupola furnace iron ( $S_A^* = 0.030-0.120\%$ ) Electric furnace iron ( $S_A^{**} = 0.010-0.030\%$ )	DI, desulfurization
Mixed (Alloys and/or pure elements)	9 mm, 13 mm, 16 mm	Cupola furnace iron ( $S_A^* = 0.030-0.120\%$ ) Electric furnace iron ( $S_A^* = 0.010-0.030\%$ )	CGI, DI, desulfurization
Alloys	9 mm, 13 mm, 16 mm	Electric furnace	CGI, DI

\*  $S_A$  = initial sulfur content



# Inoculants

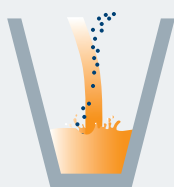
## Ladle, in-stream and cored wire

ASK Chemicals Metallurgy offers a wide variety of engineered inoculants for gray (GI), ductile (DI) and compacted graphite (CGI) iron. Each inoculant is uniquely designed to provide performance characteristics that satisfy today's demanding casting requirements. These inoculants are produced at our German facility under strict quality control.

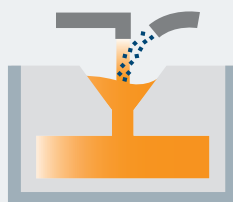
## Benefits

- Very good dissolution behavior
- Highly effective resulting in low consumption
- Uniform graphite precipitation
- Improved microstructure and mechanical properties

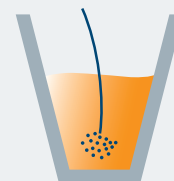
Methods for introducing the inoculants



Ladle



In-Stream



Cored Wire

Active elements of the inoculants and recommended field of application

Active elements	DI and GI		DI		GI	CGI
Al	Inogen 75		VP 216/116 (GERMALLOY)		—	Inogen 75
Ca			—		—	
Ba	SB 5	Inoculoy 63	—		—	—
Mn	ZM 6		—		VP 316 (OPTIGRAN)	—
Zr		OPTINOC Z	—		—	
Ca	—		—	SMW 605 (SMW Formling Typ1)	—	—
Bi	—	—				—
CerMM	—	CSF 10	—	SAW 304 (SMW Formling Typ2)	—	—
Al	—	—			—	—
La	—	LSF 2	—		—	—
Sr	SRF 75	—	—		—	SRF 75
Ti	—	—	—		LC Graphidox	LC Graphidox

# Mold Inoculants

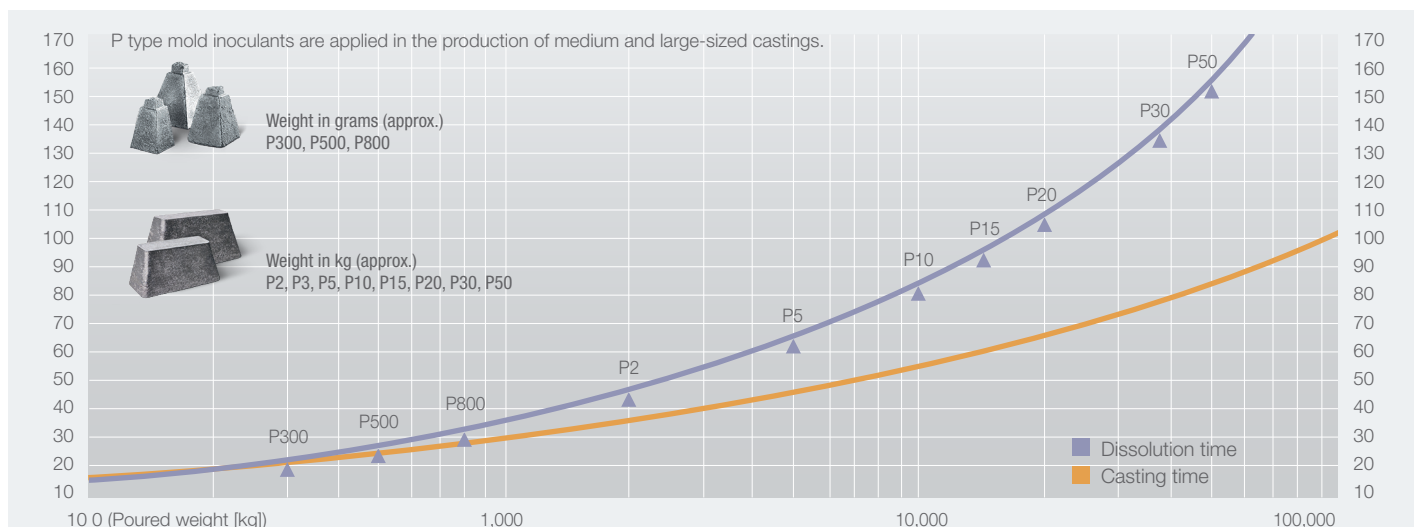
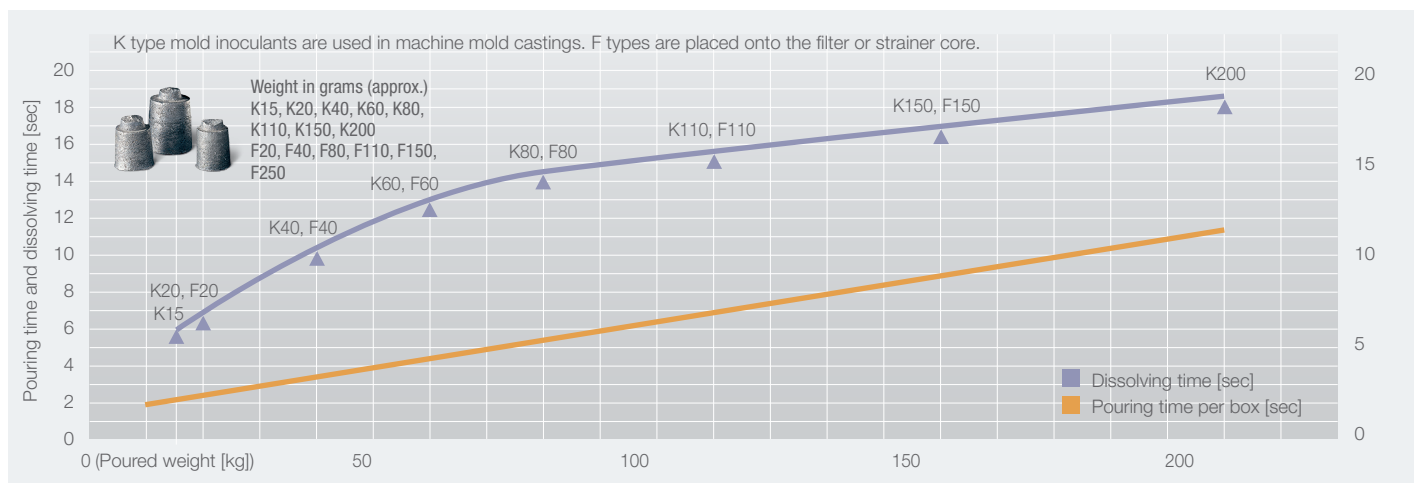
## GERMALLOY, SMW-INSERT, and OPTIGRAN

GERMALLOY, OPTIGRAN and SMW-INSERT are solid cast inserts used for the mold inoculation of gray and ductile iron. They are either placed in the drag portion of the mold or anchored in the pouring basin of very large castings. GERMALLOY is widely used to improve the nodule count of graphite within a casting, as well as enhance its mechanical properties. SMW-INSERT inoculants, on the other hand, are well known for their ability to eliminate the formation of chunky graphite in heavy section ductile iron. OPTIGRAN promotes finer Type “A” graphite in gray iron while improving mechanical and machining properties.

### Benefits

- Addition rate well adjusted to casting size
- No contact to atmosphere during dissolution
- No fading of inoculating effect
- Higher nodule count in DI
- Ductile iron DI-400-15 & DI-400-18 as cast
- SMW-INSERT prevents chunky graphite

### Pouring and dissolving time of ASK Chemicals mold inoculants\*



\* Dissolving time depends on poured weight.

# Added Value for our Customers

## Application technology and technical sales – for complete process transparency

Application technology and technical sales at ASK Chemicals offer our customers comprehensive expertise in all areas of foundry technology and metallurgy. We offer a comprehensive service that focuses on the production process as a whole and helps customers not only to cut costs but also to enhance their processes. ASK Chemicals also conducts casting defect analyses and offers its customers the opportunity to have tailored training sessions on the customer's own premises.

### Benefits

- Improved decision-making thanks to greater transparency
- Reliable recommendations
- Quick response
- Customized solution development
- Cost-in-use reporting (i.e. savings)
- Casting defect analyses
- On-site training sessions

### The one-of-a-kind "mobile mini-laboratory"

The mobile mini-laboratory runs a self contained continuous mixer that can utilize several different resin systems. Alongside many additional benefits its premier advantage is its ability to conduct trials without ever interrupting production.

- Uninterrupted production
- Multi-functional mobile tool
- Fast results



Currently, available to NA customers only

## Design Services – for perfect casting results

Our Design Services team monitors the entire process from the development of the design concept and validation right up to the production of the cast part prototype. Our engineers have a wide range of experience and a clear understanding of all aspects of foundry technology and metallurgy. Our Design Services team has the right combination of design, production and simulation expertise, co-operates with external companies and service providers, and enjoys extensive industry experience. ASK Chemicals' simulation service offers wide-ranging technical knowledge and understanding combined with state-of-the-art simulation programs (MAGMA, Novacast, FLOW-3D and Arena-flow).

### Benefits

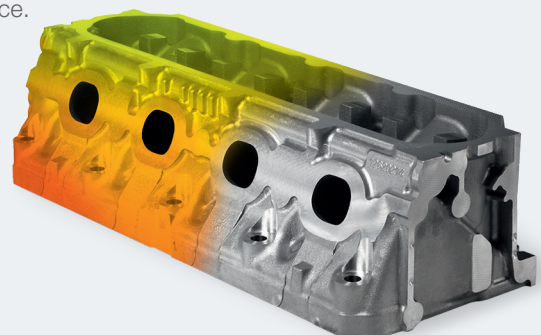
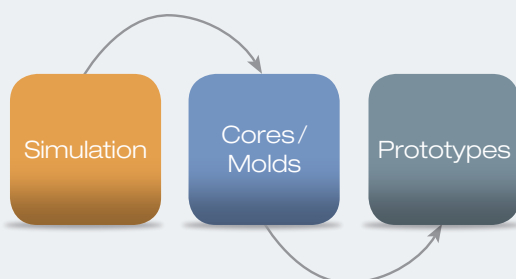
- Higher productivity and optimized catalyst consumption
- Manufacturing process design, including inorganic technology
- Calculation of optimal feed
- Optimized design and manufacture of model plates, core boxes and molds
- Less scrap
- Shorter product launch times
- Quicker time to market

### Simulation services

The simulation of casting processes provides foundries with invaluable casting mold information. Specifically, this benefit allows for the optimization of gating and feeding systems, overflows, venting design and risers. Moreover, it provides critical insight into the influences and effects directly related to casting integrity, such as cooling and heating measurements, filling and solidification times.

### From the idea to the prototype

ASK Chemicals supports your entire process from the concept to prototype production. Your benefit: you enjoy wide-ranging expertise from a single source.





## Research and development – for innovation near you

Our Research and Development department performs both innovation-driven groundwork as well as market and customer-driven development. Interaction between these three areas is of fundamental importance in terms of offering our customers technologically sophisticated products and efficiency-enhancing solutions at all times. Through close cooperation and the constant exchange of ideas with our application technology and technical sales specialists, research and development at ASK Chemicals is always in tune with the market and also maintains a presence on the customer's own premises.

### Benefits

- Many years of experience
- Global presence and availability
- Comprehensive knowledge of the regional sand types and technological requirements
- Short response times for our customers
- First-class equipment

## Comprehensive research and development services

### Pilot foundry

- Fully equipped research foundry
- Mold production, mold / core package assembly and casting
- "Real world" foundry process representation

### Metallurgical investigations

- Comprehensive examination of the graphite structure and metallic matrix: graphite size, number of nodules, degree of dispersion, nodularity, ferrite / pearlite ratio
- Preparation of metallurgical reports

### Sand laboratory

- Examination of high-temperature materials
- Testing of tensile strength, compression and transverse loading
- Sand characterization and analysis

### Product development and technical support

- Casting defect analysis
- Full spectrum chemical and polymer analysis
- Product, process and test method development



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