

Inside This Issue:

Pg. 2.....Hermitage Audit  
MTI Award  
Boeing Appreciation

Pg. 3.....Solar Hosts PMA Tour  
Y.E.S. 2012 Graduates  
California Carburizing

Pg. 4.....Upcoming Tradeshows  
Plant Holiday Schedule



A Solar Atmospheres Publication  
Winter 2012

# THE SPOTLIGHT

## Solar Atmospheres of Western PA Wins Heat Treater of the Year Award

Solar Atmospheres of Western PA (SAWPA) was awarded the 2012 Commercial Heat Treater of the Year Award by the Metal Treating Institute in cooperation with Industrial Heating magazine. Called the “Master Craftsman Award,” this prestigious honor is presented annually to the MTI member company that demonstrates that they are “making a positive impact on their community and their industry.” The award is based on contributions made in the areas of quality programs, pollution/hazardous waste control and community involvement.

SAWPA was presented with a plaque and \$1,500 to be used as an education scholarship in material sciences or heat treatment. Robert Hill, SAWPA president, accepted the award at the 2012 MTI Fall Meeting held in Nashville, Tennessee on October 5 in conjunction with Furnaces North America 2012.



*Doug Glenn, Publisher of Industrial Heating, presenting award plaque to SAWPA President, Bob Hill who was accompanied by his wife, Chris.*

MTI CEO, Tom Morrison states, “The team at Solar represents the future of where our industry is headed. MTI heat treaters are pressing forward with the investment needed to be a top notch manufacturing business with excellence in quality, safety and service. Solar is a prime example of how well heat treaters are making that commitment to excellence.”

Robert Hill adds, “We are honored to receive this acknowledgement from our colleagues in the heat treating community. We are thankful for the hard work and dedication of our employees and the support from the city of Hermitage, PA, that have made our achievements possible.”

## Solar Atmospheres Meets Size and Specification Challenges to Partner With PMF



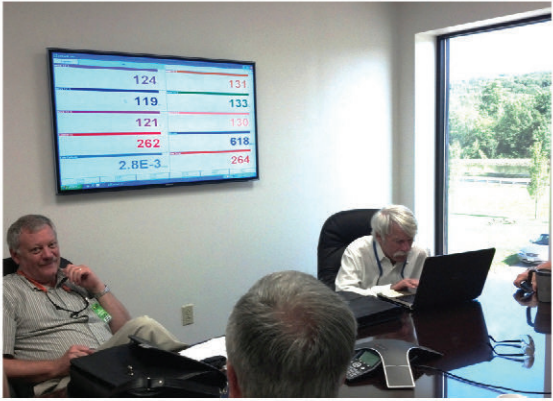
*PMF 72" long D-2 mandrel post processing.*

PMF Industries is a contract metals fabricator, in Williamsport, Pennsylvania that specializes in flow forming seamless, complex, hollow metal parts. When PMF needed a heat treater to vacuum process a 72 in., 2,500 lb. conical shaped mandrel to stringent specifications, they turned to SolarAtmospheres.

Ken Healy, Vice President at PMF Industries said, “PMF Industries required uniform hardness, minimal to no distortion, and no scale as a result of the heat treating process. Solar Atmospheres met the challenge with a large capacity vacuum furnace, creative setup, and precise process control”.

Tim Steber, Regional Sales Manager adds, “Extra-large parts require an out-of-the-ordinary solution not only with equipment, but in processing as well. Being able to help PMF with this unique and complicated project was a collaborative effort of the Solar team. From furnace operators to members of our R & D department, we were able to develop a solution to address all of our customer’s special requirements.”

## Solar Atmospheres of Western PA Nuclear “Witness” Audit



Nuclear audit conducted in SAWPA conference room.

SAWPA recently conducted a nuclear “witness” audit for one of their customers. “Due to the nature of the parts being sensitive nuclear containment components, three nuclear regulatory inspectors must be present at the furnace during the actual loading and fixturing, data logging, and packaging of the components”, said Mike Johnson, Regional Sales Manager.

The Solar technology team created a monitoring station in one of the conference rooms, which allowed the group to view the actual real-time thermal data in comfort instead of being anchored at the furnace for the duration of the audit. As noted by one of the auditors, “it was a welcome change which made the process seem shorter than the 7 hours it actually took to complete the audit.”

## Roger Jones Recognized for His Years of Service to MTI Board of Trustees

The Metal Treating Institute recognized one of its long time volunteers, Roger Jones, Corporate President of Solar Atmospheres at its Fall Meeting October 1-3, 2013 in Nashville, Tennessee.

After six years of serving on the Board of Trustees, Roger became President of MTI in 2005. In 2009, he returned to the Board of Trustees and has volunteered on numerous committees over the years. Roger was a member of the transition team to the new management company in 2008 upon then CEO Lance Miller’s retirement and helped rewrite MTI’s governing documents. He served on the national meeting program committee and as a board member of the MTI Educational Foundation.

During the awards ceremony, MTI 2012 President, Buster Crossley from Texas Heat Treating states, “Roger Jones is an icon within the heat treating community and the MTI. He is a selfless individual who always has the industry’s best interest at heart. He is the epitome of what a volunteer should look like for any organization.” Mr. Jones reflects, “I am honored to receive this award and to have worked with so many dedicated people on the board.”



Roger Jones accepting his MTI Service Recognition Award

The commitment to MTI is a family affair. Roger’s son, Jamie Jones of Solar Atmospheres, is taking his father’s place on the board starting January 1st. Jamie will begin his first 3-year term representing the Atlantic Coast Chapter. “I am proud of my father’s accomplishments through MTI and I am excited to have the experience of serving on the board. I look forward to continuing to grow this great organization.”

Established in 1933, The Metal Treating Institute is the largest network of heat treaters in the world with plants in 40 states and 8 countries and sales of over \$1.4 billion. Solar Atmospheres has been a MTI member since 1983.

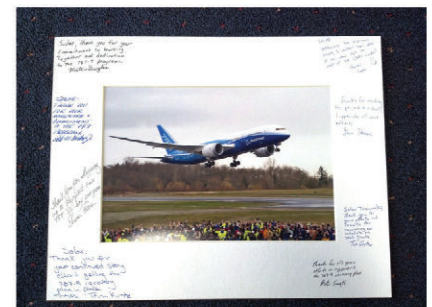
## Boeing Shows Supplier Appreciation for Solar Atmospheres of Western PA



Boeing Supply Program Mgr., Dan Hesser (center) with Tim Sloan (left) and Jack Hardesty (right).

In appreciation for our service and quality, Boeing Supply Program Manager Dan Hesser presented a photo of the 787 during its first flight signed by the entire Boeing supply team to Tim Sloan and Jack Hardesty. The photo is a welcome addition to the Solar Atmospheres of Western PA plant.

Solar Atmospheres was a major supplier for Boeing’s new 787 Dreamliner providing vacuum heat treating of its flight critical components. Dan expressed how much SAWPA’s service and quality means to their supply chain and wishes he had more suppliers like Solar.



Closeup of Photo

## Solar Atmospheres Hosts PMA Tour at Corporate Facility

On September 19th, Solar Atmospheres in Souderton, Pennsylvania hosted a facility tour for members of the Precision Metalforming Association (PMA). The attendees were from a variety of metal working companies in the tri-state area and came to learn about Solar's vacuum heat treating processes and capabilities.

Solar Atmospheres corporate president, Roger Jones gave an introduction speech and outlined the tour's agenda followed by Tim Steber, Regional Sales Manager who showed the group a short video showcasing Solar's abilities. Next, the plant tour started where the group received an overview of each furnaces' capabilities and an explanation of how each service is performed. They viewed the newly renovated lab and lab equipment and the group had the unique opportunity to also see vacuum furnaces under construction at our sister company, Solar Manufacturing .



*PMA Tour Group at Solar Atmospheres Corporate Headquarters in Souderton, PA.*

The tour concluded with a luncheon where attendees networked and discussed their challenges. Thanks to Thomas Flood, PMA District Chair and Tracy Miller PMA's Administrator for organizing the event.

## M.T.I. Young Executives Series (Y.E.S.) Management Training Program Graduates for 2012



*MTI 2012 YES program graduates.*

At the Metal Treating Institute (M.T.I.) 2012 Fall Meeting Awards Dinner in Nashville, Tennessee 26 executives from 16 heat treating companies around the country received their graduation certificates for the Y.E.S. Management Training Program. There were three graduates from Solar Atmospheres: Bob Sandora, Gordon Porterfield, and Tim Steber.

The participants each attended four one-and-a half day training sessions over a course of 10 months at companies in four different cities. The training included more than 15 hours of online training and plant tours at six locations. Y.E.S. focuses on teaching the executives strategic thinking, high performance team building, and building strong leadership skills. Congratulations to all the graduates and especially to the Solar graduates!

## Solar Atmospheres of CA Offers Low Pressure Vacuum Carburizing (LPVC) Services

Solar Atmospheres of CA recently added Low Pressure Vacuum Carburizing (LPVC) to their vacuum heat treating, air tempering, and cryogenic services.

Carburizing is a common form of surface treatment for critical steel parts subjected to the most demanding performance requirements. The process is performed to significantly increase the surface hardness/strength of steel parts for improved friction and wear.

LPVC offers a level of precision not available in conventional atmospheric equipment by incorporating state-of-the-art microprocessors for cycle control, optimization, and repeatability. This provides the ability to pre-program critical cycle parameters, including the multiple pre-determined boost/diffuse pulsing and cool down sequences. Performing LPVC in a vacuum furnace eliminates oxygen during processing which completely prevents the occurrence of intergranular oxidation (IGO) that is inherent in atmospheric carburizing. This produces a high integrity case and eliminates the need to remove IGO, which can drastically reduce the fatigue strength/life of the parts. The prevention of IGO, along with the use of hydrogen gas in the heat-up and carburizing boost stage of the cycle, coupled with the computerized processing controls, provides a process that produces extremely uniform and repeatable case depths and microstructures. Clean parts and less distortion minimizes post process finishing operations, thus reducing costs.



*Racing pinion after carburizing.*



1969 Clearview Road  
Souderton, PA 18964

Presorted  
Standard Mail  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 50  
West Chester, PA



Return Service Requested



Help us save our resources.



Printed on  
Recycled Paper

If you no longer wish to receive  
*The Spotlight*, would like a co-  
worker to receive it, or need to  
update your address please email  
us at: [info@solaratm.com](mailto:info@solaratm.com)

### Upcoming Tradeshows

Visit our booth at these upcoming  
industry events.



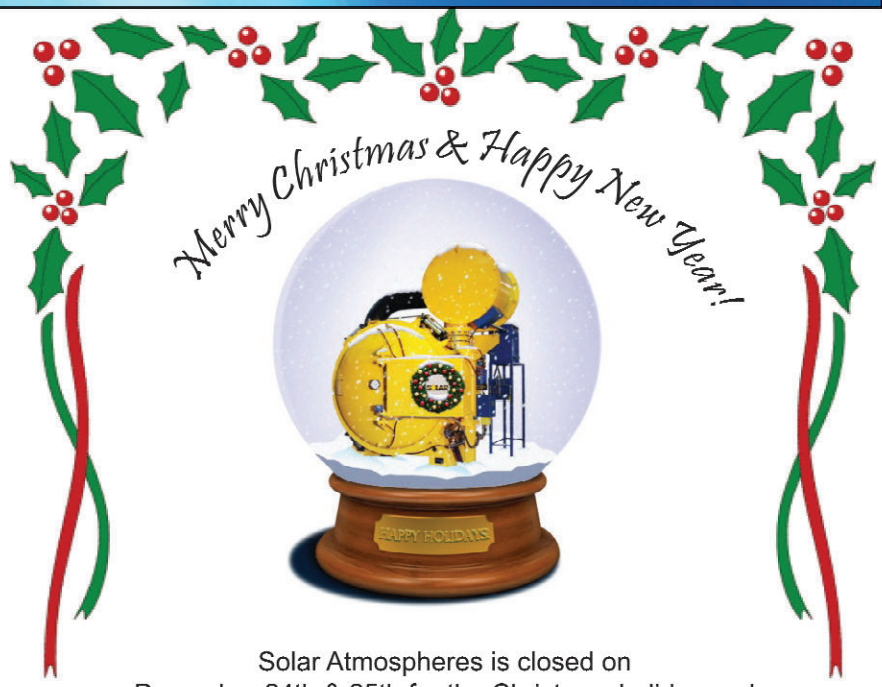
Booth 2248, Dec 11-13, 2012, Orlando, FL



Booth 3882, Feb 12-14, 2013, Anaheim, CA



Booth 1618, Mar 17-21, 2013, Orlando, FL



Solar Atmospheres is closed on  
December 24th & 25th for the Christmas holiday and  
January 1st for New Years Day.

Eastern PA  
1-800-347-3236

Western PA  
1-866-982-0660

Fontana, CA  
1-866-559-5994

[www.solaratm.com](http://www.solaratm.com)