

Construction Completed for CVT Hot-forging Press Line, a World-class High-speed Automatic Forging Machine

Aichi Steel Corporation (Headquarters: Tokai, Japan; CEO: Takahiro Fujioka) held a ceremony today, February 1, to mark the completion of construction of two CVT^(*) hot-forging press lines in our forging plant. The new lines represent Part 2^(**) of our forging business 4S Re-Engineering program that was designed to increase competitiveness in reform of our production processes in the forging business.

CVTs enable optimal stepless control of engine power, which reduces drive loss and improves fuel efficiency, and as a result, environmental requirements are driving up demand for CVTs worldwide.

Aichi Steel's new forging lines will enable world-class high-speed automatic forging of the shafts for vehicles equipped with CVTs, with 60 percent greater productivity than conventional lines.

At the same time, use of the latest FIA^(***) furnaces has enhanced energy efficiency and reduced CO₂ emissions (70 percent less energy usage than conventional equipment), while improved logistics have shortened production lead times (50 percent faster than conventional equipment).

Installation of these hot-forging press lines will allow us to continue improving productivity, reducing energy usage and shortening lead times in all CVT shaft manufacturing processes from cutting to machining. It also creates a stable and timely supply system to meet growing demand.

Going forward, Aichi Steel will continue future-focused rationalization of our plants through reorganization and reconstruction of production equipment and will continue to provide high-quality, high-precision parts. In this way, we will improve product competitiveness while helping our customers to produce ever-better cars and protecting the global environment.

(*) CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission): A transmission that continuously changes the gear ratio

(**) Part 1 was the April 2015 launch of a 4,500 ton forging press line for crankshafts

(***) FIA (Forging Isothermal Annealing): Heat treatment using energy retained from hot forging

[Equipment Overview]

1. Equipment: 3,000 ton press line (x2)
2. Location: Aichi Steel forging plant within No.4 Forging Plant (Shinpo-machi, Tokai-shi)
3. Products: Shafts for CVTs
4. Production capability: 340,000 units/month total on two lines
(Overall CVT shaft production capability: 470,000 units/month)
5. Investment: 3.8 billion yen

