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PEARL Members, RIC Work to Improve Remanufactured Products Image

AURORA, CO August 19, 2014 – Cost savings. Uptime. Safety. Sustainability. PEARL has been educating the public about the benefits of reconditioned and remanufactured products for nearly two decades. Currently, two PEARL members are also members of the Remanufacturing Industries Council (RIC). Somewhat different than PEARL’s focus, which is promoting electrical products, RIC is a cross-industry strategic alliance of companies created to educate the world about the benefits of remanufactured products.

PEARL Director and President of ROMAC Inc. (Commerce, CA) David Rosenfield and Bill Schofield, PEARL Past-President, and President of Circuit Breaker Sales Co., Inc. (Gainesville, TX), sit on RIC’s board of directors. Schofield currently serves as Treasurer. Both are impressed with how much progress RIC has made in a short period of time defining remanufacturing and bringing the benefits to high-level government officials around the world.

Rosenfield, Schofield, and PEARL all were early supporters of remanufacturing. In 2000, Rosenfield spoke at a conference for the Remanufacturing Industries Council International (RICI), shortly before it became The Remanufacturing Institute. The RIC was formed in 2011 and was restructured in January 2013 when Dr. Derek Guest came on board as Executive Director.

Rosenfield notes the large and powerful organizations that belong to the RIC. In addition to ROMAC, PEARL, and Circuit Breaker Sales, they include Caterpillar, Inc.; Cummins, Inc.; CNH Reman; Davies Office, Inc.; Detroit Diesel Reman; FTI Consulting; GE Healthcare; Golisano Institute for Sustainability at the Rochester Institute of Technology; John Deere Reman; Nextant Aerospace; SRC Holdings Corp.; TurboSupply, Inc.; and WABCO Reman Solutions.

“By pooling our resources with theirs, we can influence legislation and help people understand that remanufactured and quality can go together,” Rosenfield says. “Today, it’s common to buy an older model or even new model car alternator from the auto parts store that’s been remanufactured. One day, it’ll be the same for all products, including consumer, industrial, and commercial electrical equipment.”

So far, PEARL members on the RIC board have worked hard to make sure that the developing definition for remanufacturing continues to include the type of work conducted by PEARL members on electrical equipment — no small challenge when the other players are billion-dollar companies focused on shaping the definition to their own markets. This will set the stage for developing an American National Standard for the remanufacturing process, which will help build the understanding and credibility of the entire remanufacturing industry.

Reman Heads to the UN, China

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Sometimes, the easiest way to get your message to the most people is to first go where the people are, and then climb up high so your voice can be heard. Where, then, better to go than to China and the United Nations?

Recently, Dr. Nabil Nasr, RIC board member and Associate Provost and Director of the Golisano Institute for Sustainability & CIMS at the Rochester Institute of Technology, spoke to the International Resource Panel (IRP) of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) about remanufacturing and resource conservation.

“The International Resource Panel (IRP) of UNEP has supported my request for considering remanufacturing as a resource conservation/recovery industry with significant impact on resource consumption globally,” Nasr writes. “My proposal asked for broader acceptance of remanufacturing, and elimination of market/trade barriers. The UNEP panel provides policy recommendations to the UNEP member countries and its findings go far beyond the UN reach. . . . I have served as an ambassador for remanufacturing for many years and served as an expert delegate for the U.S. government in the last 10 years in the area of remanufacturing open market access and unfair treatment of remanufacturing products at forums such as APEC, WTO, and OECD. This is by far the best opportunity to make a huge impact on remanufacturing acceptance and policy globally. This will require a lot of work, and I urge RIC to help support this effort. We have a chance to truly make a lasting impact.”

While Nasr was making his pitch to the UN, RIC’s Guest was attending China’s largest conference on remanufacturing and its place within the Chinese marketplace. During that meeting, Guest shared information on the U.S. standard and emphasized the need for countries to work together in support of remanufacturing and associated resource conservation so that international policy differences don't hinder remanufacturing’s sustainable benefits.

Global cooperation will join technical aspects of remanufacturing, also called the circular economy, during back-to-back conferences to be held next month at the Golisano Institute for Sustainability at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Starting on September 24, The MERA-Golisano Remanufacturing and Sustainability Conference will precede the third annual World Remanufacturing Summit on September 25 and 26, bringing together public and private officials from Europe, Asia, and North America. Circuit Breaker Sales’ Schofield will serve on a panel. Presentations will include topics such as remanufacturing process technologies, non-destructive evaluation, innovations, and future trends, among others. For more information, visit <http://www.rit.edu/gis/wrs2014/>.

In the meantime, with the help of PEARL members, RIC will continue to teach the world how industry and sustainability can go hand in hand. “I think that as we all progress here, we need consistent messages about the benefits of remanufacturing,” Guest says. “We need to work together to promote it, to explain the benefits, to explain why it’s important to the economic future of all of these countries, and to look for ways that we can collaborate and grow the industry successfully.”



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