FRICTION MATERIALS RESEARCH CENTER

Abex world-wide research is headquartered in the Research Center in Mahwah, New Jersey. This group provides a centralized research facility for all of the groups within Abex Corporation. Its most unique features are its Experimental Foundry and the Engineering Test Center.

The Experimental Foundry is a totally self-contained foundry which is capable of producing all types of commercial-size castings from a variety of metals. It is used extensively as a pilot plant facility for many of our metallurgically-oriented divisions and also to produce certain specialized castings for sale.

Our Engineering Test Center is the largest and most complete dynamometer testing facility in the United States. A detailed listing of its testing equipment and its capabilities is included in the brochure on the following 16 pages. Directly associated with this Test Center is an extensive facility for vehicle testing. Both dynamometer and vehicle testing is routinely conducted to evaluate new Abex materials for development and production to ensure that all our materials comply with all government regulations and to qualify our products in accordance with the performance and wear requirements of vehicle and brake manufacturers. Our dynamometer equipment can be programmed to perform any specialized tests required by customers ranging from small disc brake pads for compact cars all the way up to massive brake systems for railroads and complex brakes for aircraft.

In addition to these facilities, we maintain active research in many metallurgical fields as well as in a wide variety of non-destructive testing procedures. Highly sophisticated instrumentation, such as a scanning electron microscope, is used routinely to monitor quality and to assist us in our research efforts to develop new and better performing products.

Although research is headquartered and largely centralized in Mahwah, there are additional R&D facilities for automotive process development at Winchester, Virginia, aircraft sintered metallic linings at Cleveland, Ohio, and a significant product and process development effort in Europe. Our research staff coordinates formula development, process development, and quality control activities throughout the group. It also acts as a reservoir of knowledge and assists in the exchange of technical and developmental data among all members of the Automotive Group.