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Blount, Inc. Opens new Manufacturing Facility in Fuzhou, China

New facility uses Oregon Cutting Systems' standardized processes developed through decades of continuous improvement

Portland, Oregon April 8, 2005 – Blount, Inc. has added to its worldwide production capacity by opening a new 124,000 square-foot facility in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, People's Republic of China. The new facility, Blount Fuzhou Ltd., will augment the company's manufacture of saw chain, chainsaw bars, heavy equipment and lawn mowers.

Although the new facility will also support the company's heavy equipment and lawn mower groups, the primary emphasis will be on the forestry products of the company's Oregon Cutting Systems Group. In fact, on March 31, 2005 the first product Blount Fuzhou Ltd. produced was a chainsaw guide bar for Oregon Cutting Systems, the world leader in chainsaw bars and chains.

"This new facility in China is not a move to transfer production from our American operations," explains Blount CEO James S. Osterman, "but to expand our worldwide capacity and better serve our customers in China and south Asia."

Oregon Cutting Systems manufactures original-equipment saw chain and bars sold on new chainsaws for approximately 90% of the world's chainsaw manufacturers and an increasing number of those manufacturers are based in China. The new facility responds to the needs of these manufacturers for more ready access to Oregon® products, which have a solid international reputation for consistently high quality and innovative developments.

To maintain the quality that Oregon products are known for, the company carefully planned this new facility and its initial operations. Oregon Cutting Systems is transferring its proven processes, training, management, tools and methods to bring the facility on-line smoothly. The company has sent experts from its manufacturing sites in Portland, Oregon and Curitiba, Parana, Brazil to help with the start-up, early operations and on-going management.

"As one of the first US manufacturing companies to adopt total quality management," states Noel Hingley, Blount VP of Manufacturing, "The company has a history of over 20 years of continuous improvement on its processes. We are sharing these processes so the new facility can get up to speed quickly and does not have to re-invent them."

The new facility's Grand Opening celebration is scheduled for April 29, 2005 with local government officials, Blount executives from Portland, Oregon and the new Blount Fuzhou Ltd. team in attendance.

Oregon Cutting Systems Group: Founded in 1947, the Oregon Cutting Systems Group of Blount, Inc. is a world leader in providing high quality, original equipment and replacement parts to the outdoor power equipment industry. The replacement products, sold under the Oregon® brand include: chainsaw chain, guide bars, sprockets, sharpening tools, lawnmower blades, mower parts and trimmer line and heads. More information about Oregon Cutting Systems and the Oregon® brand of quality replacement parts can be found at www.oregonchain.com.

Blount, Inc.: Blount, Inc. is a diversified international company with three principal business segments: Outdoor Products, Lawnmower and Industrial & Power Equipment. Blount sells its products in more than 100 countries around the world. For more information about Blount, Inc., visit www.blount.com.