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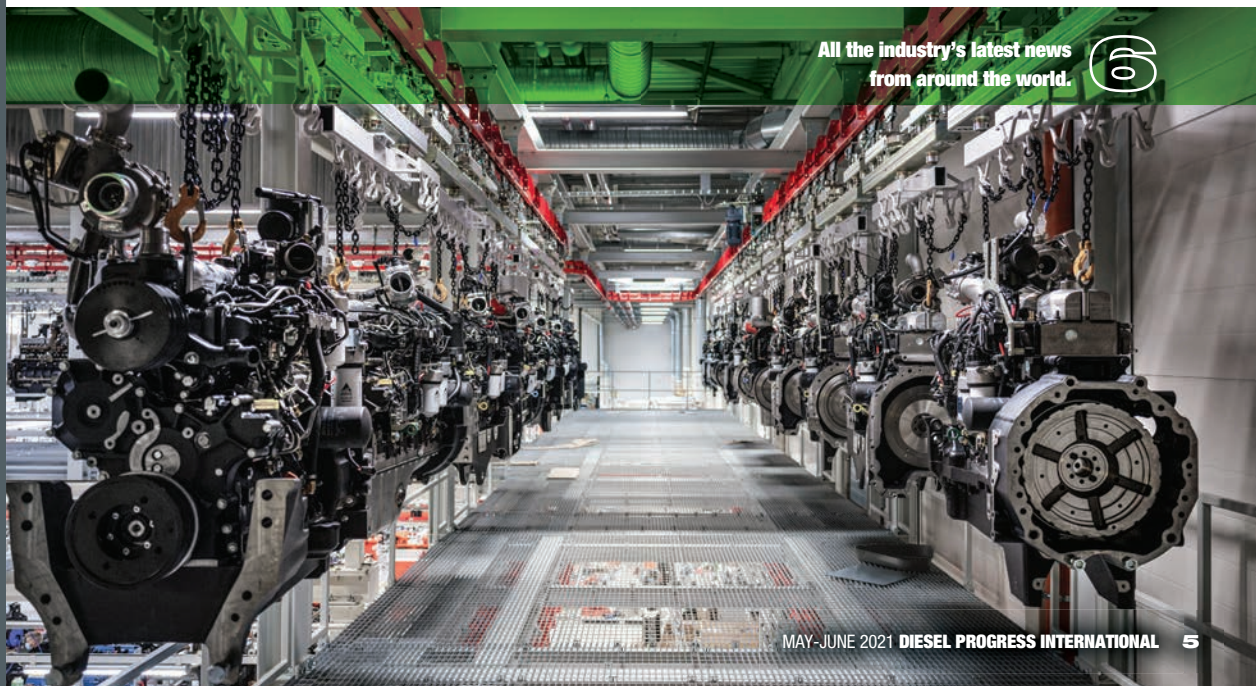
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All the industry's latest news from around the world.



Reversing out of a difficult situation

Tackling the challenge of replacing vital parts

When a supplier decides - for whatever reason - that it no longer wants to provide its customer with a much-needed spare part, the implications for repair and maintenance programmes can be severe.

Often, as a piece of machinery becomes more mature, a supplier may end deliveries because demand for its goods is low or varies.

This was the case faced by a manufacturer of heavy diesel engines which turned to Weinheim, Germany-based company Antares Life Cycle Solutions when a filtration systems company ended the supply of older products because of low demand, missing tools and high operational costs.

Antares was formed two years ago by ex-Mann+Hummel executives Dipl. Ing. Jens Hähn and Dipl. Ing. Ralf Bauder. The company specialises in life cycle management and assists with engineering, supply of replacement parts and product range optimisation.

The company also specialises in 3D printing for replacement parts for various sectors especially off-highway and commercial vehicles. The engineering works is carried out in Bangalore, India with its joint venture partner Antameq.

“For example, through reverse engineering we can help an OEM overcome problems when an older, less in demand, product is no longer available,” said Hähn.

He added: “With reverse engineering we can provide components in small series or replacement parts that are difficult to procure. 3D printing of metal components really does offer an efficient solution for replacement part procurement.”

AN URGENT NEED FOR PARTS

With the example of the engine maker mentioned earlier, Antares faced a number of challenges as the supplier of old filter systems stopped supplies because of the product's low volumes and, furthermore, there were no alternative offers from other suppliers.

Adding to the task facing Antares, information regarding the filter system assembly instruction was old with

A reverse-engineered fuel filter system used on heavy diesel engines in marine applications.



“**3D printing of metal components offers an efficient solution.**”

little detail. There was no 3D data and component drawings. Antares' customer was in urgent need of new parts for field service duties, engine rebuilds and new engine builds.

Within six months Antares said it went from a blank sheet of paper to serial production runs of completely re-engineered products. The company achievements included re-engineering of nine filter systems based on assembly drawings and samples of old products, the delivery of the most urgently needed parts via 3D manufacturing, component validation and establishing new supply chains and qualification of new suppliers.

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MyFPT launched to help FPT engine users

A new smartphone App, MyFPT, has been introduced for users of FPT Industrial's engines. The App collects all data, user's manuals and service schedules for the brand's engines as well as all machinery equipped with these units; it will also provide the operating status of the power unit in real time (such as the r/min, temperature and consumption) and lets customers request assistance. FPT Industrial said MyFPT offers two types of service: connected and not connected. The latter includes all engine data, such as technical and specific information on emissions, complete technical documentation with user and service manuals, and a section

dedicated to replacement parts, detailing the most frequently replaced parts. From the non-connected services section the FPT Industrial Customer Centre can be contacted to request assistance or information on the engine, as well as finding the nearest dealer. The services provided when connected, using a Bluetooth dongle connected to the engine diagnostics socket, enable the customer to monitor the operation and status of all their registered FPT engines in real time.

