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Tognum America's Proposed Education Program Gains White House Attention

Representatives of Tognum's MTU Aiken Plant invited to Washington to present innovative new vocational education ideas

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GRANITEVILLE, S.C.—Known for its technological leadership in the area of power and propulsions systems, Tognum has now added educational leadership to its portfolio through a new program that will kick off this fall at its MTU Aiken Plant.

Last week, representatives of Tognum America Inc., a subsidiary of Tognum AG, were invited to meet with representatives of the White House and the U.S. Department of Education to discuss a planned apprenticeship program for high school students in Aiken County, S.C. The event was designed to be a roundtable discussion of ideas regarding programs aimed at improving education and helping more young Americans gain vocational training and enter the workforce without a college degree.

Joerg Klisch, vice president of North American operations, and Arjonetta Gaillard, senior human resources generalist, were joined at the meeting by leaders of the Aiken County Public School District, the Aiken County Career and Technical Center, Aiken Technical College, and Apprenticeship Carolina. Together, the group shared Tognum America's vision for helping high school students get a head start on a career in industrial manufacturing through its new apprenticeship program.

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The program, which will be produced in partnership with the Aiken County School District, the Aiken County Career and Technology Center, and Aiken Technical College, will combine high school education, classroom technical training and hands-on learning at the MTU Aiken Plant. Six new high school juniors will be enrolled in the program each school year, beginning this fall.

“Our invitation to the White House was a great opportunity for us to raise awareness of the training gap that exists for many high school graduates in America,” said Klisch. “Our meeting also enabled us to encourage other companies to consider using our ideas, and to encourage the government to share our ideas with other states and organizations. We believe strongly that our new apprenticeship program will help the community and our business grow together, and we would love to see the program’s model implemented in other states and industries.”

“South Carolina boasts the fastest growth in registered apprenticeship programs across the nation,” said Brad Neese, director of Apprenticeship Carolina. “Apprenticeship Carolina has played a key role in this phenomenal growth. We credit our outstanding partnerships and an innovative approach of growing apprenticeship through non-traditional occupations with our success. This roundtable gave us the opportunity to raise awareness of registered apprenticeship as a proven tool to address existing skills gap. It also allowed us to demonstrate the importance of innovation and partnership in the approach.”

Tognum AG, the parent company of Tognum America, has implemented a similar apprenticeship program at its facilities in Friedrichshafen, Germany, for 30 years. Currently, 76 students are enrolled in the German program, which boasts a 100% graduation rate.

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Tognum is the corporate entity behind some of the most powerful brands in off-highway applications – MTU engines, MTU Onsite Energy generator sets and L'Orange fuel-injection systems. Tognum America Inc. is responsible for the sales and service of these brands in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America and South America.

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Tognum America's history goes back more than a century and encompasses some of the most storied names in diesel and gas engine manufacturing and power generation packaging in Europe and North America. Industry legends such as Maybach, Daimler-Benz, MTU, Detroit Diesel and Katolight Corporation are all integral parts of Tognum America's heritage of experience and expertise.

Today, Tognum America is one of the leading manufacturers of off-highway diesel and gas engines and power generation systems, offering a comprehensive portfolio of products and unmatched customer service. With eight locations in the United States, including two manufacturing facilities, Tognum America is firmly committed to a presence in the Americas.

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Representatives of Tognum America and Aiken County, S.C., educational officials met with representatives of the White House and the U.S. Department of Education to discuss a planned apprenticeship program for high school students at the MTU Aiken Plant. Pictured from left are: Joerg Klisch, vice president, North American Operations, Tognum America; Arjonetta Gaillard – senior human resources generalist, Tognum America; Dr. Susan Winsor, president, Aiken Technical College; Brooks Smith, director, Aiken County Career and Technical Center; Dr. Elizabeth Everitt, superintendent, Aiken County Public School District; Brad Neese, director, Apprenticeship Carolina; Robert Crenshaw, area director, Apprenticeship Carolina.

About Tognum America

Tognum America (formerly MTU Detroit Diesel) is a Tognum Group company and is responsible for the manufacture, sales and support of MTU and MTU Onsite Energy branded products in North and Latin America.

With its two business units, Engines and Onsite Energy, the Tognum Group is one of the world's leading suppliers of engines and propulsion systems for off-highway applications and of distributed power generation systems. These products are based on diesel engines with up to 9,100 kilowatts (kW) power output, gas engines up to 2,150 kW and gas turbines up to 45,000 kW.

The product portfolio of the Engines business unit comprises MTU engines and propulsion systems for ships, for heavy land, rail and defense vehicles and for the oil and gas industry. The Onsite Energy business unit supplies distributed power generation systems carrying the MTU Onsite Energy brand. These comprise diesel engines for emergency power, prime power and continuous power, as well as cogeneration power plants based on gas engines and gas turbines that generate both power and heat. Tognum's product portfolio also features fuel-injection systems built by L'Orange.

In 2011, Tognum generated revenue of around €2.97 billion and employs approximately 10,000 people. Tognum has a global manufacturing, distribution and service structure with 23 fully consolidated companies, more than 140 sales partners and over 500 authorized dealerships at approximately 1,200 locations. Since September 2011, Engine Holding GmbH, a joint venture between Daimler AG and Rolls-Royce Group plc, has a majority holding in Tognum.

Disclaimer

Forward-looking statements

This release contains forward-looking statements based on assumptions, forecasts and estimates made by Tognum's executive board of management. Although we assume that the assumptions, forecasts and estimates forming the basis for these forward-looking statements are realistic, we cannot guarantee that they will prove to be correct in the future. Assumptions, forecasts and estimates may entail risks and uncertainties which may cause actual results to differ considerably from those included in forward-looking statements. Factors which may result in such discrepancies include, among other things, changes in the economic and business environment, fluctuations in exchange and interest rates, the introduction of competing products, lack of acceptance for new products or services and changes in corporate strategy. Tognum undertakes no obligation to update and/or to correct and/or to confirm forward-looking statements or to release publicly any updates or corrections to any forward-looking statements in order to reflect events or circumstances which occur after the date of this release.

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