

major feat, and led to us transferring a high speed automated bearings manufacturing facility to cope with the volume demand. Some 60% of our bearing production is destined for international markets, with the distribution networks into Europe, Africa and the USA,” explains Slack.

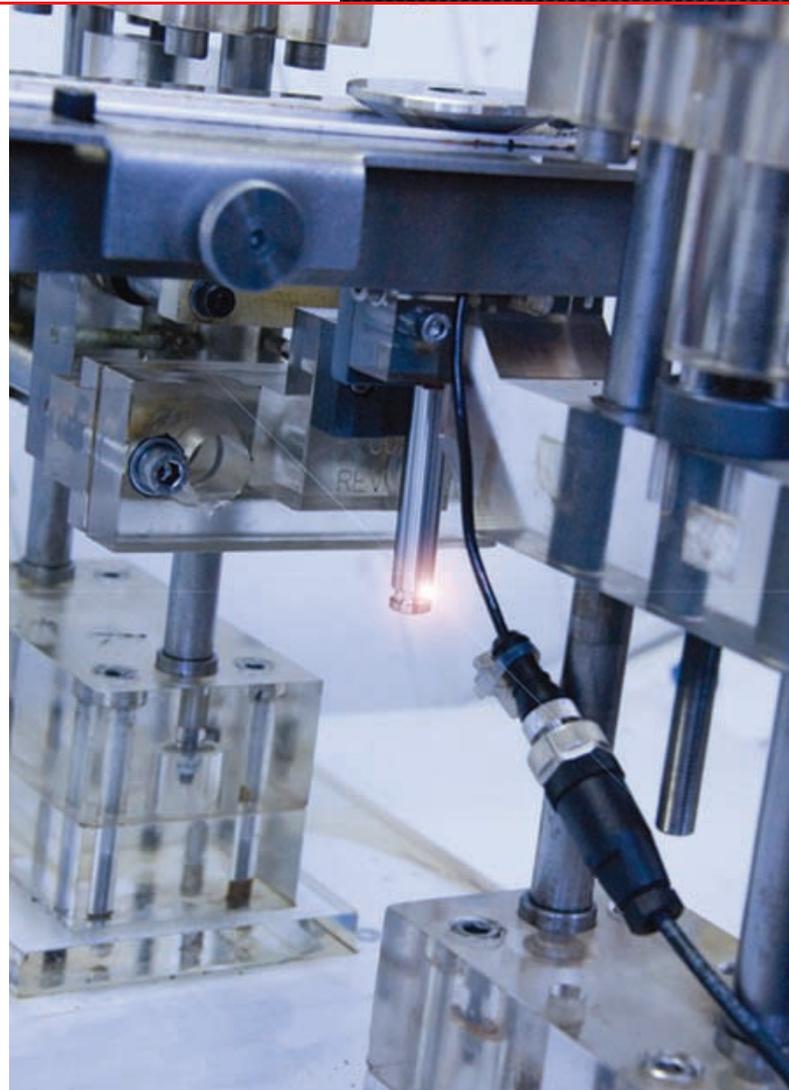
Likewise, most of this facility’s valve production is destined for international distribution. The factory supplies to the European and American aftermarkets, and to the OE market, notably to diesel generator manufacturer Perkins (UK). African distribution amounts to 20%.

Capable of adapting to a wide range of applications, Pinetown PTSB manufactures plain, truck and solid flange bearings for the light and heavy duty automotive markets, with bearing outer diameters ranging from 35mm to 125mm. The light and heavy duty automotive markets are provided with valves with a range that feature from 5mm to 13mm stems, 16mm to 65mm heads and overall lengths of 75mm to 240mm.

Valve brands that are manufactured at this facility include the flagship AE® brand, Sealed Power®, Speed-Pro®, FM Range and FP Diesel®, while bearings include copper and lead-free Glyco®, AE®, FM Range, and FP Diesel bearings.



In the initial forging process, the glowing valve is being pressed.



During the laser process at the valve facility at Pinetown Powertrain Sealings & Bearings (PTSB), the label is etched into the valve.

LARGE AE® VALVES RANGE

As Federal-Mogul’s only valve production facility, Pinetown PTSB manufactures the AE® brand’s valve range, one of the largest and most complete in the aftermarket. There are more than 3 000 part references, from A (Alfa Romeo), to Z (Zhighuli). The valve train range also offers guides, seats and springs for a variety of applications, including petrol and diesel passenger cars, light commercial engines, heavy duty applications and agricultural equipment. The valve range includes nitrided stems, nickel-based super alloys featuring chromium, cobalt and titanium and can be used in temperatures of up to 820°C.

Every AE® valve is designed and manufactured to the precise operating requirements of the corresponding engine. This application-engineered approach provides the confidence for customers to ensure performance and reliability that meet or exceed the original part. The selection of material on an engine valve is undoubtedly the foundation on which any quality engine valve should be designed. Pinetown PTSB’s valve facility sources its valve steel only from certified and specialised valve steel production facilities. To this extent, the AE valve material comprises a selection of materials to meet all applications.