

PIM: state of the art and future perspective

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PIM technology has been developed very fast in the last years. There are nowadays 360 PIM companies around the world. New applications, novel process routes and equipment as well as wide knowledge and evolution of the technology promoted its growth. Both automotive and electronic industries are pushing forward the MIM market, and companies are optimizing plants and processes. Continuous lines have been used to produce high volumes, of the order of 300 tons/year. On the other hand, batch furnaces have increased the productivity in order to be more competitive. New alloys or novel powder production processes are available to reduce the dimensional tolerances of final parts as well as increase mechanical properties. The total sales market in 2007 was U\$1,065 billion. The distribution by area, market and alloys are shown on this presentation. The PIM future perspectives lead to wide applications in terms of market niches, production costs reduction and improved properties.