

tion cuts across not only automotive, but also civil aerospace, oil and gas exploration and mining.

Talking to numerous trade show attendees reinforced the overall impression given by these statistics, but without exception the attitude throughout the show was very positive. In part, this is due to natural optimism and positive thinking, but, in addition, a full year had passed since the 'bad times' at the peak of COVID-19, and, at present, many companies' business is booming. Furthermore, many US companies have a July 1–June 30 fiscal year; hence, the sharp downturn was already accounted for in a previous accounting year and is thus almost 'ancient history' in a fast-paced business environment.

MPIF 2021 awards

As is traditional at every annual MPIF conference, many awards were handed out, for distinguished service to the industry and for especially impressive parts. In 2021, as in recent years, the majority of the part awards went to MIM producers. In conventional press and sinter PM, Grand Prizes were won by Phoenix Sintered Metals and its customer Dana Incorporated (Fig. 3), and by Metalpo Ind e Com Ltda and its customer Groupe SEB – Arno Clock Krups Panex Penedo Rochedo (Fig. 4). Awards of distinction were given to Sintergy Inc. and its customer Knott Brake Company; Singhal Sintered Pvt Ltd; Nichols Portland and Capstan.

Three individuals were singled out for special honours during the event: Thomas (Tom) W Pelletiers II of Kymera International, and Cynthia (Cindy) Freeby of Ametek Specialty Metal Products, were awarded the 2020 and 2021 Fellow Awards, respectively, while Professor Randall (Rand) German received the Kempton H. Roll PM Lifetime Achievement Award. Rand remains very active in the PM field, writing frequently for the publisher of *PM Review*, and he recently developed a series of thirty online lectures for Powder Metallurgy



Fig. 3 Phoenix Sintered Metals and its customer Dana Incorporated received a Grand Prize in the Automotive Category PM of the MPIF's PM Design Excellence Awards for this stepped planetary gear used in a ridged rear axle gear box for battery electric light commercial vehicles (Courtesy MPIF)



Fig. 4 A Grand Prize in the Hardware/Appliances Category PM was awarded to Metalpo Ind e Com Ltda and its customer Groupe SEB – Arno Clock Krups Panex Penedo Rochedo, for an SMC superior and inferior stator for a mono-phase induction motor for a ceiling fan (Courtesy MPIF)