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Contact:
Andy Stawski, Marketing Director
Astaras, Inc.
Andy.Stawski@Abicor-Group.com
1-727-546-9600, ext. 103

NEW DENSALLOY™ U.S. MADE TUNGSTEN HEAVY ALLOYS BRAND SUPPORTS U.S. AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

ASTARAS, INC. CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF NEW TUNGSTEN HEAVY ALLOY MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

Largo, FL, USA, August 6, 2025 – Astaras, Inc., a trusted supplier of advanced tungsten heavy alloy materials, hosted the grand opening of its brand-new manufacturing facility at 11625 54th St. N, Clearwater, Florida, USA. The invite-only event took place on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, starting at 9:30 AM. The event marked a transformative moment for the tungsten heavy alloy industry in the United States as Astaras launched the new DENSALLOY™ U.S. Made Tungsten Heavy Alloys brand.

The grand opening event included presentations on tungsten heavy alloy technology, brief remarks from industry leaders and Florida state officials, and a celebratory catered luncheon for all attendees.

The schedule of the event was as follows:

9:00 AM – Press Interviews with Speakers
9:30 AM – Welcome to Guest, Product and Facility Displays
10:00 AM – Economic Impact, Industry, and Business Presentations with Facility Podium Tour
11:40 AM – Ribbon Cutting
11:45 AM – Panel Question & Answer Session
12:15 PM – 2:00 PM – Networking Catered Lunch

The list of featured speakers included:

- Tobias Borawski, Managing Director, Astaras, Inc. – Served as emcee for the event and introduced the DENSALLOY™ U.S. Made Tungsten Heavy Alloys brand. Participated in the Q&A panel.
- Kent New, Tungsten Heavy Alloys Facilities Manager, Astaras, Inc. – Took the audience through the journey of the facility up to the point of the Grand Opening. Spoke a second time to give a “podium tour” of the facility, calling out existing machines and locations of near-term investments. Participated in the Q&A panel.

- Alex Kelly, Secretary of Commerce, FloridaCommerce – Provided an overview of the economic impact for the state of Florida and the importance of this facility to the aerospace and defense industries in Florida.
- Linda Chaney, Florida State Representative (HD 61) – Represents many Astaras employees who are residents of Pinellas County.
- Brian Scott, Chairman, Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners – Shared his thoughts on economic development and the cooperation between business and Pinellas County.
- Christofer Burger, Consul General, Federal Republic of Germany in Miami – Shared his perspective on international commerce and the cooperation between German and American companies.
- Ulrich Hocker, Chairman of Shareholders Committee, IBG, Germany – Explained the importance and the role that Astaras and the new tungsten heavy alloys manufacturing facility plays in IBG global operations.
- Dr. Emil Schubert, CEO, ABICOR GROUP – Discussed ABICOR GROUP business operations in the Americas and the tungsten heavy alloy facility investment timeline. Participated in the Q&A panel.
- Thomas Hoehn, Managing Director, WELDSTONE, Germany – Provided the audience with the perspective that opening the new tungsten alloy facility took the mentality and drive of a start-up company. Participated in the Q&A panel.
- Dr. Steve Caldwell, Tungsten Expert/Consultant, Spectrum Innovations – Provided the audience with a solid general understanding of tungsten heavy alloys and shared his thoughts on the importance and technical excellence of the new facility. Participated in the Q&A panel.

With the launch of our U.S.-based manufacturing facility, Astaras is taking a bold step forward—offering DFARS-compliant (Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement) American-made tungsten heavy alloy solutions that meet the highest standards of quality, performance, and compliance.

“By adding tungsten heavy alloy production stateside, we’re not only expanding our capabilities—we’re making it easier for U.S. companies to meet DFARS requirements,” said Tobias Borawski, Managing Director, Astaras. Jim Brown, Senior Sales Representative for Tungsten Heavy Alloys, Astaras, said, “This is a game-changer for contractors and manufacturers in industries where precision, durability, and reliability are non-negotiable.”

Tungsten heavy alloys are indispensable across a wide range of sectors—from aerospace and defense to automotive, die casting, welding, machining, medical, and more. Valued for their high density, heat resistance, vibration damping, radiation shielding, and extreme wear resistance, tungsten heavy alloys are mission-critical for high-performance applications. “Astaras is AS9100D and ISO 9001:2015 certified, underscoring our commitment to excellence and rigorous quality management,” said Kent New, Manager of the new Astaras Tungsten facility. New has been with Astaras for 20 years managing the engineering team and providing oversight for the Quality Control team.

At full capacity, the Clearwater facility is expected to operate 24/7, creating approximately twenty job opportunities for skilled professionals in manufacturing, warehouse operations, and technical services in Pinellas County. Dr. Cynthia Johnson, Director of the Pinellas County Economic Development department said, “The investment not only strengthens local industry but also enhances the region’s economic vitality and workforce.”

To ensure that the tungsten heavy alloy materials are separated by source, the new Astaras tungsten heavy alloy facility will be dedicated to manufacturing and distribution of Made-in-America tungsten heavy alloy materials. Customers will be reassured of material origin, as it will clearly be stated on the Certificates of Origin (Cos).

WHAT IS TUNGSTEN?

Tungsten is a chemical element with the symbol W (Wolffram) and atomic number 74. It is known for:

- Extremely high melting point (6,192 °F / 3,422 °C) — the highest of all metals.
- Nearly as dense as gold with a density of 19.25 g/cm³ (1.7 times denser than lead.)
- Exceptional hardness, ranking 9 on the Mohs scale (just below diamond)
- High tensile strength and resistance to wear, corrosion, and high temperatures.
- Naturally, tungsten is grayish silver in appearance.

Tungsten is found in nature only in chemical compound form, not as a pure metal. Tungsten is primarily found in mineral ores, especially Wolframite $(Fe,Mn)WO_4$ and Scheelite $CaWO_4$. Other less common tungsten-bearing minerals include Ferberite (iron-rich wolframite) and Hübnerite (manganese-rich wolframite).

When mined, the raw ore is crushed and milled into fine particles. Tungsten minerals are separated from waste rock using gravity separation, flotation, and magnetic separation. The concentrated ore is chemically treated to produce ammonium paratungstate (APT) — a key intermediate in tungsten refining. The APT is converted into tungsten oxide and then reduced to pure tungsten powder, often by hydrogen reduction in furnaces. Finally, the powder is pressed and sintered into solid tungsten or alloy forms, depending on its intended use.

WHAT IS A TUNGSTEN HEAVY ALLOY?

A tungsten heavy alloy is a mixture of tungsten and one or more other metals, such as nickel, iron, copper, cobalt, or molybdenum. These are engineered materials designed to enhance or tailor specific properties of pure tungsten.

WHY USE TUNGSEN HEAVY ALLOYS?

Pure tungsten is too brittle for most structural or mechanical applications. Tungsten heavy alloys retain density and temperature resistance while improving strength, toughness, and machinability.

Examples:

- Tungsten heavy alloys (WHA) are used in medical imaging, aerospace, and defense.
- Tungsten carbide, a hard alloy of tungsten and carbon, is widely used in cutting tools.

WHAT ARE THEY KEY DIFFERENCES OF TUNGSTEN VS. TUNGSTEN HEAVY ALLOY?

Feature	Pure Tungsten	Tungsten Heavy Alloys
Composition	99.9%+ tungsten	Tungsten + other metals (e.g., nickel, iron)
Machinability	Very difficult to machine	More machinable and ductile
Brittleness	Brittle, especially at room temperature	Enhanced toughness and flexibility
Melting Point	Extremely high	Slightly lower, depending on alloy
Applications	Filaments, welding electrodes, electronics	Radiation shielding, aerospace parts, die casting, counterweights
Cost	Expensive	Often more cost-effective for specific uses

DENSALLOY™ U.S. MADE TUNGSTEN HEAVY ALLOYS

DENSALLOY™ U.S. Made Tungsten Heavy Alloys are versatile materials with a wide range of valuable characteristics. They are often used for many different purposes, such as radiation shielding, high stiffness, and mass property uses.

DENSALLOY™ Tungsten Heavy Alloys are highly ductile when given the correct post-sintering heat treatment. DENSALLOY™ Tungsten Heavy Alloys are perfectly capable of surpassing the ideal minimum values of known standards. They may also be used for cold working processes that require higher strength and hardness levels.

DENSALLOY™ Tungsten Heavy Alloys are available in multiple grades, including 170F, 175F, 180F, 185F, 170L, 175L, and 180L.

DENSALLOY™ Tungsten Heavy Alloys have significant applications in many important industries.

- **Aerospace** – Balance Weights, Counterweights, Rotor Systems, High-Energy Radiation Shielding, and More.
- **Defense** – Kinetic Energy Penetrators, Ballistic Applications, Radiation Shielding, Balance Weights, Counterweights, High-Load Wear Components, and More.

- **Medical –** High Density. High Shielding Performance. Containers and Shielding for Radioactive Materials. Collimators in Magnetic Resonance (MRT) Equipment.
- **Shielding & Nuclear –** Transport containers for radioactive substances, radiation source holder in measuring devices, radiation shielding of radioactive substances in chemotherapy and Collimator sheets in magnetic resonance tomographs.
- **Oil & Gas –** Superior Performance and Lower Cost Compared to Tungsten-Carbide Tooling. Boring Bards, Grinding Quills, Arbors, and Bucking Bars.
- **Precision Tooling –** Superior performance and lower cost compared to tungsten-carbide tooling. High-thermal conductivity. Low-thermal expansion. Withstands thermal shock. Tools run cooler. Last longer.

Additional product information, including a product line card and brochure detailing machining guidelines and uses for counterweight, impactor mass, impact shielding, and radiation shielding are available at www.DensalloyUSA.com.

DENSALLOY™ U.S. Made Tungsten Heavy Alloy sales in The United States are overseen by Jim Brown, Senior Sales Representative for Tungsten Heavy Alloys. He can be reached at 1-727-295-6989 or jim.brown@astaras.com.

WHAT DOES DFARS-COMPLIANT MEAN?

Refers to compliance with the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS), which sets specific requirements for contractors and suppliers doing business with the U.S. Department of Defense. Being DFARS-compliant ensures that a company adheres to critical regulations regarding the sourcing of materials—such as using domestically produced specialty metals—as well as requirements for cybersecurity, supply chain integrity, and reporting procedures. This designation affirms a company's eligibility to participate in defense-related contracts and its commitment to supporting national security and defense manufacturing standards.

WHAT IS AS9100D CERTIFICATION?

AS9100D Certification is an internationally recognized quality management standard specifically developed for the aerospace, aviation, and defense industries. It builds upon ISO 9001 and includes additional requirements for product safety, risk management, traceability, and regulatory compliance. Achieving AS9100D Certification demonstrates a company's commitment to delivering high-quality, consistent, and compliant products and services that meet the rigorous demands of the aerospace sector.

WHAT IS ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFICATION?

ISO 9001:2015 Certification is the internationally recognized standard for quality management systems (QMS) across all industries. It sets the framework for organizations to consistently meet customer and regulatory requirements while driving continuous improvement. Certification to ISO 9001:2015 demonstrates a company's commitment to quality, efficiency, and customer satisfaction, with a strong emphasis on risk-based thinking, leadership accountability, and process performance.

ASTARAS, INC.

Headquartered in Largo, FL, Astaras, Inc. is the foremost leading supplier of private label MIG guns and consumables, TIG torches and consumables, Gouging Torches, and Carbon Electrodes for the welding industry in North America, and it is one of the largest suppliers of Tungsten Electrodes in the U.S., including the latest innovation in tungsten electrodes, E3® tungsten electrodes (www.E3Tungsten.com). Astaras is part of the IBG Group. Utilizing IBG Group factories, Astaras imports OEM-quality parts to their Largo, FL facility to manufacture and supply top quality TIG Torches, MIG Guns, Gouging Torches, Carbon Electrodes, and related consumables for OEMs, wholesalers, and distribution channels. Astaras designs, engineers, and assembles MIG guns and TIG and Gouging torches in Largo, FL. The copper wire, welding cable, and hoses that are used in Astaras products are purchased from choice USA suppliers. For more information, visit www.astaras.com. The Astaras website currently displays approximately 1,700 distinct products offered by the company.

ABICOR GROUP

In 2025, under the leadership of the parent company IBG Group, multiple companies were brought together under one unified identity globally and in the Americas. Abicor Binzel, Thermacut, Astaras, and Cantesco are now unified as the ABICOR GROUP® (www.abicor-group.com/en/).

This strategic alignment is a testament to IBG Group's commitment to building value together, ensuring that welding distributors and end-user customers benefit from the combined expertise, product innovation, and industry-leading solutions that each of these brands has built over decades.

Who are the worldwide members of ABICOR GROUP?

Abicor Binzel: A global leader in MIG guns, TIG torches, robotic solutions, co-bot solutions, and welding accessories, delivering the highest levels of productivity and quality.

Thermacut: A global powerhouse in plasma cutting solutions, with 30+ years of experience across 30 countries—offering affordable, high-performance plasma cutting machines and consumables.

Astaras: For 25 years, Astaras has delivered top-tier aftermarket private label welding products through distribution, including MIG guns, TIG torches, carbon arc torches, tungsten electrodes, grinders, and more—and we continue to expand our portfolio to meet your needs.

Cantesco: Manufactures high-quality welding chemical products, including anti-spatter, cooling fluids, cleaning and protective agents, and non-destructive testing agents.

WELDSTONE COMPONENTS – One of the leading manufacturers of tungsten and tungsten-based products, tungsten heavy alloys, tungsten-copper, and tungsten special alloys in the world. The well-known brands from WELDSTONE are ANVILOY® tungsten heavy alloys and TUCOMET® tungsten copper heavy alloys.

ABICOR SYSTEMS – Provides system solutions from the entire portfolio of all ABICOR GROUP companies and their co-operation partners. They welcome any challenge, no matter how great. The experts contribute their knowledge and experience with the aim of achieving the best solution for the appropriate requirement.

HERR Industry System – As a developer and manufacturer of exhaust air purification systems and filtration technology for cutting, welding, brazing, grinding and machining, HERR Industry System provides solutions for occupational health and safety for the ABICOR GROUP.

PT Photonic Tools – A medium-sized high-tech company that is part of the ABICOR GROUP with optical components for highly specialized laser applications in industrial production.

IBG GROUP

The IBG Group (https://www.ibg-cologne.com/en/) is an international holding company based in Cologne, Germany, with production facilities worldwide. The IBG GROUP is a family-owned business with more than 2,500 employees worldwide with seventy-five subsidiaries and affiliated companies in thirty-eight countries. Other IBG Group companies operating in North America are members of the ABICOR GROUP.

Press Contact:
Andy Stawski, Marketing Director, Astaras, Inc.
andy.stawski@abicor-group.com
727-546-9600 ext. 103

Astaras, Inc.
(Private Label Welding Products)
6901 Bryan Dairy Road, Suite 160
Largo, FL 33777
727-546-9600

Astaras, Inc.
(Tungsten Heavy Alloys Manufacturing Facility)
11625 54th St. N,
Clearwater, FL 33760
727-202-7772