

PRESS RELEASE

July 31, 2017

Major patents of VMI upheld in China

VMI is pleased to announce that major invention patents related to tire building technology are upheld in China. These patents were challenged by Safe-Run as their defense in the ongoing legal dispute, in which VMI is suing Safe-Run for infringement of VMI's protected IP.

The Patent Re-examination Board ruled recently that the challenged patents remain valid in China.

To VMI's surprise some other challenged patents were invalidated. VMI will appeal and is convinced that a higher court will recognize the validity of these other patents, which were granted and upheld in many other important countries, and overturn that element of the Patent Re-examination Board's decision.

Harm Voortman, CEO of VMI Group: "This decision further strengthens our position in the legal dispute with Safe-Run and reaffirms our confidence in the Chinese legal system."

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About VMI

People feel a real pride when they create technical innovations that keep manufacturers ahead in their markets. That's the passion behind the VMI Group and our work with tires, rubber, cans and care products. VMI is a wholly owned subsidiary of TKH Group N.V. (NYSE Euronext Amsterdam, www.tkhgroup.com). VMI is the world's leading producer of tire manufacturing machinery, and offers global technical support from service centers in The Netherlands, Germany, Poland, USA, Brazil, China, Malaysia and Russia. VMI employs more than 1200 people around the world. To learn more about VMI Group, please visit www.vmi-group.com.