



Presses from the former Chrysler plant in Twinsburg are headed to China

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By **Peter Krouse, The Plain Dealer**

CLEVELAND, Ohio--The giant presses that once stamped out hoods and door panels at Chrysler's Twinsburg plant are finding new homes -- and one of them is China.

The Gisele Scan, a 469-foot cargo ship docked at the Port of Cleveland, is taking on massive press sections and parts-filled containers for delivery to the Port of Xingang.

It's been slow going because of the weather and the need to carefully position the bulk cargo on board for a safe voyage, said David Gutheil, vice president for maritime and logistics at the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority.

The ship will sail eastward, Gutheil said, crossing the Atlantic Ocean and heading through the Suez Canal.

The presses are ultimately destined for a Hawtai Autobody Co. plant in Kangbashi New District Ordos, Inner Mongolia.

It makes sense that a Chinese company might scoop up some of the presses, said Paul Schroeder, assistant visiting professor of political science at Case Western Reserve University and an expert on China.

The Chinese are often on the lookout for equipment deals when plants close in the United States, he said.

Plus, business is booming there.

"The auto industry in China is probably the strongest industry right now of any other in the country," Schroeder said. "And it's growing."

And unlike much of what's made in China, the cars assembled there are primarily for the domestic market.

Some presses from the Twinsburg plant, closed during Chrysler's bankruptcy in 2009, were purchased by Cosma International, an operating unit of international auto parts supplier Magna International of Canada, according to Magna spokesman Scott



Enlarge

Lisa DeJong, The Plain Dealer

Presses that have been removed from the Chrysler plant in Twinsburg are wrapped in white plastic ready to be loaded onto a cargo ship at the Port of Cleveland on Friday, Dec. 16, 2011. The presses are headed to China.

Twinsburg presses head for China gallery (5 photos)

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Worden.

Worden would not disclose where that equipment is being sent.

Auction house Maynards Industries of Southfield, Mich., bought the plant equipment and re-sold it.

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