

The Gear Works

OPENS TEST AND ASSEMBLY CENTER

The Gear Works–Seattle Inc. announced the opening of its new gearbox assembly and test center that has much increased the company's gearbox rebuild and testing capacity. Located adjacent to the manufacturing facility, the new gearbox center is furnished with equipment that will facilitate the complete overhaul, assembly and testing of large gear drives.

According to the company's press release, the facility is segregated into six areas: disassembly, lubrication, instrumentation, clean assembly, special projects and gearbox testing.

Roland Ramberg, president of The Gear Works, says, "Our goal is to take gear repairs to a higher level of quality and subject repair procedures to the same cleanliness and testing standards as our new operations."

Multiple workstations in the disassembly and evaluation area provide for simultaneous processing of many gearbox repair projects. A separate electrical service is dedicated to two regenerative gearbox test cells. The smaller test cell can provide incremental loads up to 150 hp. The larger cell, currently under installation, will induce loads up to 2,500 hp by means of back-to-back gearboxes driving a generator at 1,800 rpm. According to The Gear Works, the advantage of regenerative testing is that power consumption is limited to the efficiency losses of the drive system.



With its new facility, The Gear Works hopes to serve all users of industrial gearboxes and expand with the growing wind power market.

Special gearbox testing can also be accomplished by means of a four-square method where the load is applied by inducing torsion between shaft connections of two opposing gearboxes. The drive motor is sized according to efficiency losses of the gearboxes. Load testing efficiency requires that the entire test setup be anchored to a rigid foundation. The Gear Works' large test bed consists of 300 yards of reinforced concrete and structural steel. ■

New North American Subsidiary

FOR ATLANTA GMBH

Atlanta GmbH in Bietingheim-Bissingen, Germany, announced the formation of its new North American subsidiary, Atlanta Drive Systems Inc., located in Wall, NJ.

According to the company's press release, Atlanta Drive Systems is the sole source for the Atlanta product line in North America. This includes a wide range of servo reducers, rack and pinion drives, linear actuators and driving elements.

These products are typically used in the automation, machine tool, woodworking and aerospace industries. ■

Koepfer

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GEAR-TEC



Koepfer America was selected as the exclusive North American distributor for the Gear-Tec products of Wenzel Precision GmbH. Wenzel Precision is an international company specializing in coordinate measurement technology.

Wenzel Precision has developed a line of equipment for the precision inspection of gears. Using a rotary table, a 3-D probe and true four-axis technology, Wenzel Gear-Tec offers precision capability. Software developed in a true Windows operating system provides a technician-friendly environment.

The machine is based on Wenzel technology using granite for the base. According to Koepfer's press release, this provides a homogenous platform that remains thermally stable and maintains strong dampening characteristics. Additionally, all axes of motion utilize air bearing guideway systems for increased accuracy and smooth motion.

Wenzel Gear-Tec has two purpose-built gear inspection machines: the WGT350 and the WGT500. They have the capability to inspect bevel, worm and parallel-axis gears with optional programs for CMM geometric inspection, including inspection of cams and camshafts. Also available are gear tool inspection and unknown-gear software.

Wenzel has combined the CMM technology of its LH Series with rotary technology and software to offer a CMM with true four-axis capability for gear inspection. This allows Wenzel to offer gear inspection up to 2 meters using proven components. ■

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In Memoriam

GEAR MANUFACTURER
JOSEPH M. GARFIEN: 1909–2005

Joseph M. Garfien, co-founder of United States Gear Corp., died May 5 from an infection. He was 95 years old.

An Austrian immigrant, Mr. Garfien's journey to America started with several soccer games in the United Kingdom. In 1928, he was a teenaged player with the Austrian national team and traveled with it to Great Britain. After the games, he was fixed on continuing west. An uncle in Chicago sponsored his immigration.



Joseph M. Garfien

"There wasn't very much opportunity in Austria at the time," Mark Garfien explains about his father's decision.

But, arriving in Chicago, Mr. Garfien had no job, no money, no English. He dealt with his first two problems by joining Perfection Gear, starting as a machine operator. He also drew a second income from playing soccer. As for English, the Polish-speaking Mr. Garfien learned that over time.

At Perfection, he became a practical, hands-on gear engineer. He then became his own boss when, after 25 years, he left Perfection and co-founded International Gear. He left that business 10 years later, co-founding a second company, U.S.

Gear, with his son and son-in-law, Don Garfield. Today, U.S. Gear employs 300 people in Chicago and is still owned and operated by the Garfien family.

Mark Guggenheim, a 17-year employee, describes Mr. Garfien as a likable fellow, a firm boss, but one who cared about his employees and was willing to listen to them.

"Joe had a lot of longtime employees," says Guggenheim, U.S. Gear's vice president of manufacturing and engineering. "People wanted to stay. He treated his people with respect. He was loyal to them."

Outside the Garfien family, several U.S. Gear employees are the children of past employees. Mark Garfien thinks this says something about his father as U.S. Gear's leader: "He could be trusted."

By the late '90s, Mr. Garfien had ceded day-to-day administration of U.S. Gear to his son, the company's president, and his son-in-law, its vice president of sales.

Mark Garfien recalls his father's love of his family and love of his country.

Mr. Garfien is survived by his son; two daughters, Barbara Garfien and Charlene Garfield; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

After he died, a grandson discovered in a desk drawer in Mr. Garfien's home a tape player with a cassette recording of "God Bless America."

Michael Goldstein, a 40-year friend and associate, learned about the recording at Mr. Garfien's memorial service and thought: "God did bless America, He sent us Joe Garfien." ■

Bison Gear, Armature Electric

PARTNER FOR POWER
TRANSMISSION DISTRIBUTION

Bison Gear and Engineering announced the addition of Armature Electric Ltd. as its power transmission distributor for western Canada.

According to the company's press release, Armature Electric offers fully trained technical support and comprehensive inventories throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Armature is headquartered in Vancouver and supplies electric motors, gear reducers and industrial motor controls. ■



Rush Gears

OFFERS
REVERSE
ENGINEERING
CAPACITY

Rush Gears Inc. announced its capability to manufacture to customers' drawings or sample parts. Reverse engineering from existing samples will be completed utilizing the REVWORKS and GearTrax add-ins to Solidworks.

Rush Gears manufactures made-to-order customer and standard gears of all types on a rush basis. Quantities range from one-piece replacements or prototypes to 10,000-piece production runs.

According to the company's press release, Rush produces spur gears, helical gears, worms and worm gears, gear racks, internal gears, bevel and miter gears, spiral bevels, pinion shafts, timing pulleys, sprockets, couplings, involute splines as well as straight splines and special forms. ■

Portable CNC gear pitch tester ES 4100



The new portable pitch measuring instrument ES 4100 offers an extremely exact method of measurement. A high degree of operational convenience is possible by the built in processing of the measured data and the tilt and Swivel display touch-screen. ISO, DIN or AGMA standards evaluation software. The measurements can be stored and printed out on an external PC. Existing pitch measuring instrument ES401 from the former MAAG company can also be updated on request.

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NEWS

Bonfiglioli

ACQUIRES
TECNOINGRANAGGI,
A BOLOGNA-BASED
SUPPLIER OF
PLANETARY GEAR UNITS

According to the company's press release, this acquisition is part of Bonfiglioli's continuing quest to become a turnkey supplier.

Tecnoingranaggi specializes in the production of planetary gear reducer units, which are suitable for applications such as packaging, woodworking machinery and positioners. Through its other recent acquisition of Vectron Elektronik, Bonfiglioli hopes to expand its product offering to position itself as a global system supplier for various industrial sectors. ■

HIGH SPEED Gear Inspection

ITW Heartland introduces the Model 5823 Gear Inspection Machine for automatic high speed inline gear inspection, offering greater flexibility with 6 axis robot loading and sorting of gears.

MACHINE FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Greater flexibility in running complete families of different gears on the same machines.
- Part change over is done very quickly requiring no tools or special skills.
- Setting masters are stored in quick change trays. The robot automatically selects the setting masters and returns them to the same location after calibration.
- Production capability up to 600 gears per hour depending on the style of the gear.
- Inspecting total composite, tooth-to-tooth action, runout, nicks, DOB size, lead, lead variation, taper along with other gear and part geometry measurements customized to your particular needs.



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Process Equipment

SOLD, PRESIDENT RETIRES

Larry Ewald announced his retirement after 27 years at Process Equipment Co. In 1978, he succeeded the company's founder, Emmert Studebaker. According to the company's press release, PECo grew to 158 employees located in three facilities in the Tipp City, OH, area and revenues increased from \$5 million to more than \$25 million during Ewald's tenure.

Coincident with Ewald's retirement, PECo was acquired by Buckingham Capital Partners, which invests in U.S. specialty manufacturing companies. According to the company's press release, there are no anticipated changes in the operations, and the former shareholders will retain ownership of the real estate and the facilities.

continued

Michael van Haaren was appointed president and will lead the operation. For the past 11 years, he has served PECO in various engineering, manufacturing and management positions, most recently as vice president/COO. His work experience includes seven years in research and quality program development.

In the company's press release, he says, "PECO has a long history of satisfying its customers in various industries. I am excited about the company's broad prospects for continued growth and success by sustaining its strong customer focus."

Process Equipment designs, manufactures and sells systems to the automotive transmission, off-highway, aerospace, construction, industrial, marine and office equipment markets. ■

Rexnord

COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF FALK CORP.

Rexnord Corp. announced that it has completed the acquisition of Falk Corp. from Hamilton Sundstrand, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp., for \$295 million.

Rexnord Corp., headquartered in Milwaukee, WI, is a worldwide manufacturer of mechanical power transmission components with revenues of approximately \$800 million and 4,800 employees located at more than 30 manufacturing facilities. Falk Corp., also headquartered in Milwaukee, manufactures gears and couplings with annual revenues of \$200 million.

"We are pleased the acquisition process is complete," says Robert Hill, CEO of Rexnord, in the company's press release. "The merger with Falk represents an important step forward for Rexnord, significantly enhancing our capabilities in the power transmission industry."

Falk's president Dave Doerr says in the company's press release, "We see this merger as a real win for the Falk Corp. By joining forces with Rexnord, we see an excellent opportunity to expand our business. Together, we will make the future of this new enterprise even brighter than the past." ■

Regal-Beloit

APPOINTS TWO NEW GROUP PRESIDENTS

Regal-Beloit Corp. announced the appointment of two new group presidents. Mark Gliebe was named president of the Electric Motors Group, and David Eisenreich was named president of the mechanical components and power generation division.



Mark Gliebe

According to the company's press release, these appointments follow the largest acquisition in the company's history with the purchase of General Electric Co.'s heating, ventilation and air conditioning division as well as the GE refrigeration motors and capacitors division in December 2004. The acquisition doubled the size of the company's operations and is expected to add approximately \$500 million in sales in 2005.

Gliebe will be responsible for all aspects of the company's global motor operations, including sales/marketing, materials and engineering. He has been with GE for the past 22 years, most recently as general manager of GE Motors and Controls.



David Eisenreich

As president of mechanical components and power generation, Eisenreich will be responsible for the company's Mechanical Group, the electrical power generation, capacitor operations, and special product division. He joined Regal-Beloit in 1997 with the acquisition of Marathon Electric and most recently served as president of Regal-Beloit's Motor Technologies Group.

Henry Kneuppel, Regal-Beloit's president and CEO, says, "With the recent GE motor product line acquisitions, we believe Regal-Beloit is now the #1 producer of commercial, industrial, and HVAC motors in North America and a significant global player in motors, power generation, and mechanical power transmissions." ■

Ikona Gear

APPOINTS NICOLA SIMON TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ikona Gear announced the appointment of Nicola Simon to its board of directors.

Simon is currently the platform leader for Ballard Power Systems. She has worked in engineering for the past 15 years, primarily in international manufacturing, product development and project management.

Laith Nosh, president and CEO of Ikona Gear, states in the company's press release, "To further our aggressive mission

to be a global leader in innovative gearing technologies, it is imperative for Ikona to build a board of directors with real world experience in designing and bringing new products to market. Nicola's broad range of international manufacturing and product development experience will be invaluable as we deepen our product offering across multiple vertical markets."

Ikona Gear designs, manufactures and markets innovative gearing-enabled applications and gear-increasing and -reduction systems.

In Ikona Gear's press release, Simon says, "This is an opportune time to join Ikona's board of directors. In addition to the tremendous inroads Ikona is already making with automotive industry leaders, such as Magna International, the company is fast realizing success in the medical, robotics and aviation sectors." ■



United Gear & Assembly

ACQUIRES SPACE

United Gear & Assembly has acquired an additional building near its main plant to support the company's planned growth. The new facility will be referred to as UGA Plant 2. It encompasses another 25,000 square feet of warehousing, inspection and conference space.

According to the company's press release, the space will allow UGA to continue providing just-in-time deliveries by establishing buffer inventories of specific parts to meet customer schedules. In addition, UGA Plant 2 will be used to store raw materials with long lead times.

UGA, headquartered in Hudson, WI, manufactures gears, shafts, and assemblies and provides a vertically-integrated supply source including engineering, machining, heat treating, assembly and quality assurance. ■

Star SU

CONSOLIDATES SALES WITH BOURN & KOCH, WINCO

A mutual agreement has been made to combine sales and marketing between Star SU and Bourn & Koch for their machine tool product lines.

The enterprise will be owned and managed by an executive committee of members of both organizations.

Star SU's comprehensive line of gear machine tool products will now be enhanced by a complementary line of gear hobbors, grinding machines and Fellows shaping machines as a result of this merger.

A separate agreement between Winco and Star SU has been reached for the consolidation of sales activities of each company's tool product lines. The intention of this agreement is to consolidate all sales activities under Star SU. The enterprise, effective July 1, will be owned and managed by employees of both companies.

The merger creates a significant addition to the existing Star SU tool product line. The Winco products include PCD and CBN inserts and cartridges, reamers, special cutters and integral shank tooling for high volume transfer machining systems throughout North America.

The combined enterprise allows chip-making manufacturers to use a single supplier of precision round tools, gear tools and support service for both. ■