

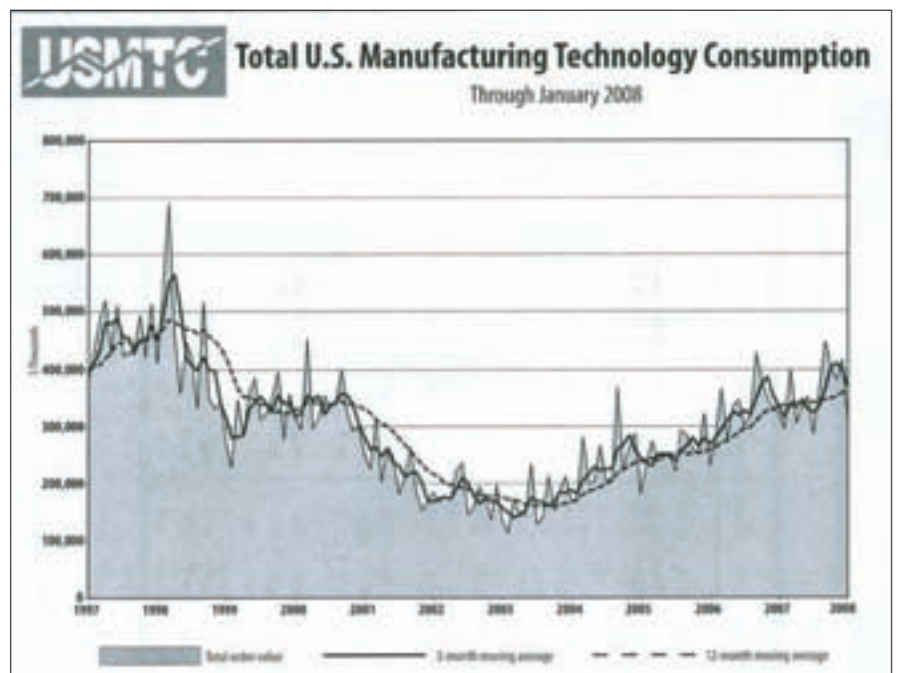
Manufacturing Technology Consumption

GREW IN 2007, DOWN IN JANUARY

U.S. Manufacturing technology consumption (USMTC) totaled \$400.31 million in December, according to the Association for Manufacturing Technology (AMT) and the American Machine Tool Distributors' Association (AMTDA). This indicates a 7.5 percent increase from November 2007, a 20.9 percent increase from the total reported for December 2006 and a year-end total of \$4,261.47 million, an increase of 8 percent compared to 2006. The data these numbers are based on come from reports made by companies contributing to the USMTC program.

"Exceptionally strong December results have driven 2007 manufacturing technology orders to a level eight percent above 2006," says AMT president John B. Byrd III in a press release. "This is the fourth complete year in the current growth cycle as U.S. manufacturers continue to apply innovative manufacturing technologies to improve productivity."

The USMTC December statistics are broken down into five regions: Northeast, Southern, Midwestern, Central and Western; with respective consumption totals of \$54.87 million, \$52.95 million, \$154.53 million, \$83.72 million and \$54.24 million. The largest manufacturing technology consumption came out of the Midwestern region, of which the December total was 31.9 percent higher than from the previous month and 112.6 percent higher than the December total from 2006. The year-end total was \$1,422.48 million in the Midwestern region, which was



15.4 percent higher than the closing total from 2006. The year-end total for the Northeast region was 10.5 percent higher than the closing total for 2006, and the Southern region's total was 7.8 percent above 2006. December manufacturing technology consumption fell in comparison to the value from November 2006 in the Central region but still posted a year-end total above 2006's by 5.6 percent. December's total also fell in the Western region, where the year-end total was 5.1 percent less than the comparable figure for 2006.

Manufacturing technology consumption in January 2008 declined 26.1 percent from December, totaling \$308.73 million. This is down four percent from the total reported for January 2007.

On a regional basis, in comparison to December's figures, manufacturing technology consumption was down in every area of the country: 7.5 percent in the Northeast, 17.2 percent in the Southern region, 36.9 percent in the Midwestern region, 13.6 percent in Central states and 41.8 percent in the Western region.

"Despite the publicized concerns about the U.S. economy, we anticipate that first quarter machine tool consumption numbers will improve as manufacturers start to implement 2008 capital budgets and use the potential savings available from the new economic stimulus package enacted last month," says Peter Borden, AMTDA president.

Zebra Skimmers

OPENS DISTRIBUTOR TRAINING CENTER IN OHIO

The full-line manufacturer of oil skimmers and coolant maintenance equipment, Zebra Skimmers Corporation, is opening a distributor training center in Solon, Ohio. Distributors can benefit from participating in the training center's program by learning fluid dynamics and preventative maintenance protocols, Zebra product lines and appropriate application selection and alternative web-based training.

"We are pleased to offer our distributors the opportunity to visit



our facility in Solon, Ohio to gain experience with our product lines. We truly enjoy spending personal time with them and helping them understand fluid dynamics as well as utilization of our

equipment," says Meg Grant, sales and service manager.

Kasputis

NAMED PRESIDENT OF HOEGANAES CORPORATION

David Kasputis succeeds Robert Fulton as president of Hoeganaes Corporation after spending the past year as executive vice president and chief operating officer.



David Kasputis

Kasputis received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Bucknell University. After working seven years at Bethlehem Steel Corporation, he

became manager of quality control and laboratory services for Hoeganaes in 1984. He joined the executive staff when he was appointed director of quality assurance. In this position, Kasputis helped obtain the company's first ISO quality management certification.

Kasputis became the general manager of operations for Hoeganaes' powder production facility located in Gallatin, Tennessee before working in the sales and marketing department, and eventually he was appointed vice president of sales and marketing for North America.

Hoeganaes Corporation produces ferrous metal powders for the sintered component, chemical and welding industries worldwide.

Northstar Aerospace

WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO

Glenn E. Hess is now president and chief executive officer of Northstar Aerospace, Inc., as appointed by the company's board of directors. Hess has a widespread background in the global aerospace sector.

Hess is coming to Northstar from Alabama Aircraft Industries, Inc., where he served as president of the Birmingham company that deals with maintenance, repair and overhaul of military and other aircraft.

Hess also served as president and CEO of Bell Helicopter Textron. He

oversaw the manufacturing facilities in Fort Worth and Amarillo, Texas and Mirabel, Quebec. Serving as vice president and general manager of the maintenance and modification business unit at The Boeing Company, Hess was responsible for military aircraft operations in San Antonio and Wichita, Kansas. Prior to his employment at Boeing starting in 1997, Hess worked in a number of senior manufacturing and program management positions at McDonnell Aircraft Company, which he joined following an honorable discharge as an active duty aviator for the U.S. Navy.

Hess received a master's degree in business administration from Washington University, a Master of Science in aerospace systems engineering from the University of West Florida and a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Northwestern University.

"Glenn's extensive experience in the aerospace sector, specifically in the manufacture and maintenance, repair and overhaul of rotary wing aircraft, is an excellent fit for Northstar," says Donald Jackson, executive chairman of Northstar. "Our focus is converting record backlog into shipments with a goal of continuously improving customer satisfaction."

Platinum Research

WELCOMES INTERIM CFO

David A. Hart was appointed interim chief financial officer, effective March 7, taking over the position previously

held by Michael D. Newman, the former vice president and CFO who announced his resignation in January. Newman stepped down to pursue other interests, but he agreed to a consulting position with Platinum Research for a limited period.

Hart, a certified public accountant

(CPA), has worked for public and private companies for over 20 years. He has experience supplying financial leadership, employing financial systems and managing accounting regulations that simplify processes and help comply with Sarbanes-Oxley, public company accounting reform law.

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Platinum Research designs, develops and commercializes high-performance additives for lubricants and coatings. According to the company's press release, they are going through a transitional development stage seeking to produce more effective, efficient, commercially viable and environmentally friendly compounds. Their most recent product launch is TechroBond, which provides economic, performance and environmental advantages.

Hart commented, "I feel that we are at an important crossroads with Platinum Research, and I look forward to participating in the advancement of this new proprietary technology."

MDM, QCA AGREE TO SELL, SUPPORT GEAR INSPECTION MACHINES IN N. AMERICA

After more than 40 years manufacturing CMM and gear inspection machines exclusively in Europe, MDM Mecatronics of Bologna, Italy is



expanding its market to North America via an agreement with QC American (QCA) of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MDM constructs a line of gear inspection equipment ranging from 10 mm to 2.5 m inspection capabilities, in addition to producing retrofit packages used for older mechanical inspection machines. MDM machines are used extensively in Italy, and they are used by Italian companies to produce gear machines for U.S. machine manufacturers that provide final assembly and customer acceptance. The company also supplies artifacts to NIST, all according to MDM's press release.

Beginning in May 2008, QCA will display a GMM 40 in the company's new show room in Ypsilanti, Michigan. In September 2008, the GMM 40 will be exhibited by QCA at IMTS in Chicago along with other machines from QCA's sister company, American Broach and Machine Co. QCA distributes CNC and manual gear grinders for worm, cone and form wheel type applications, shaving cutter grinders, OD/cylindrical grinders and other CNC applications.

The GMM products are CNC-driven coordinate multifunction machines that execute fully automated inspection cycles while minimizing the work operators are required to perform. These machines have an optional, rotating fourth axis for complicated data components, which compensates for potential interpretation mistakes that occur while only using three axes. They have a high resolution for measuring gearing with involute tooth profile, free form profiles and other features that aid reverse engineering, according to product information posted on MDM's website.

Richard R. Kuhr

JOINS ABA-PGT SALES AND APPLICATIONS ENGINEERING TEAM

Offering over 30 years of gear design and manufacturing background to ABA-PGT in his new position as a member of the sales and applications engineering team, Richard



Richard R. Kuhr

R. Kuhr graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with a degree in mechanical engineering, and he started his professional career manufacturing metal gears of all sorts—spurs, helicals, worms, worm gears, straight, spiral and hypoid. He has managed capital plans, arranged departments and designed tools in departments of production control, purchasing, manufacturing engineering and heat treating, serving in positions of management, chief engineer, director and vice president.

Kuhr moved from the manufacturing sector to software development and gear design consulting spanning various industries such as aerospace and automotive markets. Plastic gear design training and consulting eventually occupied his greatest interest considering the distinctive features plastic gears can offer and having provided training in North America, Europe and Asia. Kuhr is a published author of many technical papers and other magazine articles, including for *Gear Technology*.

Kuhr will be based in ABA-PGT's

Lombard, Illinois location where he can be reached at (630) 495-5646 or rkuhr@abapgt.com.

McNeil

APPOINTS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Randall J. McNeil, president and CEO of McNeil Industries, announced Jordan L. Owens' appointment as executive vice president of business development. In his new position, Owens will guide McNeil's global sales, marketing and distributor support programs, as well as help strengthen the strategic accounts program and identify and evaluate new product and acquisition prospects, according to the company's press release.

Previously, Owens served two years as president of Vanguard National Trailer Corporation, and he was president of Danly IEM for six years. While working for the



Jordan L. Owens

Cleveland-based producer of die sets and components for the metalworking industry, Owens conducted an acquisition and integration of Anchor Lamina, and his initiatives for plant consolidation and improvements minimized operating costs and lead times but improved service levels for major product lines at Danly IEM. Owens also held a general management position for SPX Corporation and a

position in business unit management for Sulzer Bingham Pumps, a company that makes industrial pump systems.

Owens earned a bachelor's degree in engineering technology from the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo before doing graduate work in business

administration at Pepperdine University and in technology management at the University of Phoenix. Owens is on the board of the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS), and he was an international director of the Society for Automotive Engineers.

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TIMKEN

Where You Turn

McNeil Industries, based in Ohio, manufactures and distributes MAXAM bearings, guide systems, deburring systems, industrial seals and precision manufactured products.

company is located in the Paris suburb of Chelles and will continue producing tailor-made, robust gauging solutions, mechanical assemblies and measuring equipment from simple hard gauges to automatic measuring machines, according to a press release from Marposs. In its 54th year of business, Kern S.A.S has 40 employees.

expects to make additional acquisitions in the near future, according to Stefano Possati, Marposs president.

“Our goal is growing in a solid and continued way both in our traditional and new markets,” Possati says. “Purchasing quality companies with products that are complementary to those of Marposs is a tool that we will continue using in addition to our strong activity in research and development inside the company.”

Marposs

PURCHASES GAGE MAKER KERN S.A.S

Kern S.A.S, recently bought by Marposs S.p.A, supplies high precision mechanical gages and assemblies used primarily by manufacturers in the aerospace and automotive industries. The

The Auburn Hills, Michigan-based company, Marposs, supplies precision metrology equipment to improve productivity and reduce costs in manufacturing. Marposs intends to continue a commitment to the French market with this acquisition in combination with the 2006 purchase of Trace, a French company that manufactures leak testing machines used in assembly applications. Marposs also recently acquired Control Gaging Inc. of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and the company

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