

BRAD FOOTE GEAR WORKS PURCHASED

The assets of Brad Foote Gear Works, Inc., of Cicero, IL, have been purchased by J. Cameron Drecoll, Dennis Palmer and Pat Rosmonowski. The three men were all formerly with Foote Jones/Illinois Gear.

Established in 1924, Brad Foote specializes in the design, manufacture and assembly of large, coarse pitch gears and

gear drives for industrial applications. The company has two manufacturing facilities, one in Cicero and one in Pittsburgh, PA, and employs 150 people.

Revenues last year totaled approximately \$20 million. The Cicero facility was the first U.S. gear manufacturing plant to receive ISO 9000 certification in early 1993 and has continued to be registered with Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Ltd.

AGMA RELEASES NEW STANDARD

AGMA has announced the release of its standard, "Specification for Measurement of Linear Vibration on Gear Units" (ANSI/AGMA 6000-B96). This standard provides comprehensive methods for the measurement of linear vibration, the instruments to use and the test procedures to follow. It also presents the recommended discrete vibration limits for acceptance testing. Also included is an appendix regarding the ISO vibration rating curves from ISO 8579-2 "Acceptance Code for Gears—Part 2: Determination of Mechanical Vibrations of Gear Units During Acceptance Testing."

AGMA has also released the information sheet, "Load Classification and Service Factors For Flexible Couplings," AGMA 922-A-96.

Copies of the standard and the information sheet are available from Global Engineering Documents.

AGMA CHOOSES NEW BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS

Eleven gear industry leaders were appointed to the AGMA Board of Directors during the group's annual meeting in Tucson, AZ, in March.

David L. George of the Falk Corporation is chairman. Samuel R. Haines II of Gear Motions is senior vice president, and Bipin N. Doshi of Schafer Gear Works and Andert Manufacturing will serve as treasurer. Frank J. Posinski of Cincinnati Gear Company is chairman emeritus. Arlin Perry of the Dorris Company will serve as vice president, technical division, and Michael J. Drahuschak of the Russellville Division of Amarillo Gear Co. as vice president, administrative division.

New board members are Charles A. Brannen, Overton Gear, William M. Lechler, Sumitomo Machinery of America, Julian Sabados, Rapid Gear, Michael E. Short, Gear Products, Inc. and Mike Wheeler, LM Gear Company.

Continuing board members are Roger Pennycook of Boston Gear, Samuel D. Pierson of ABA-PGT Inc., Douglas V. Smith of P. T. Lufkin Indonesia, Dan Thurman of Caterpillar Inc., Gottfried H. Versock, Flender Corp., Robert R. Wallis

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of Rexnord and Frederic M. Young of Forest City Gear.

NCADT HOLDS AUSFORM FINISHING TECHNOLOGY DEMO

On April 8, the National Center for Advanced Drivetrain Technologies at Penn State University held an end-of-project demonstration and ausform finishing workshop. Details of the ausform finishing process were outlined and the world's first production-capable, double-die ausforming machine was demonstrated for key people from both business and the military.

INFAC/BELL HELICOPTER IN GRINDING EXPERIMENT

INFAC (The Instrumented Factory for Gears), Bell Helicopter and Texas A&M University are involved in an experimental grinding project that investigates the thermal damage (burn) in carburized and hardened precision gear materials. The result of the project will be a predictive model that facilitates the monitoring and control of grinding burn in precision gear manufacturing.

The findings will be made available to the aerospace and machined component industries.

Updates on the progress of the experiments are available from INFAC at 312-567-4264.

SLIGHT MODERATION IN MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY GROWTH PREDICTED

Real domestic purchases (inflation adjusted) of combined metal cutting and metal forming equipment rose by an estimated 1.2% in 1996 to nearly \$8.5 billion, marking the fourth consecutive year of growth, according to The CIT Group/Industrial Financing's *Fifth Annual Machine Tools Outlook—1997-1999*. However, consistent with the cyclical nature of the industry, growth in real purchases of machine tools is expected to ease somewhat through 1999.

According to the forecast, real purchases will retreat 8.2% in 1997, 1.5% in 1998 and 2.1% in 1999. According to Thomas A. Hanemann, assistant vice president of Economic Research at CIT, the relative stability of the industry is attributable largely to the overall health of the U.S. economy and the U.S.

machine tool builders' ability to continue to distinguish themselves in the global marketplace while cutting unit costs and increasing productivity. The primary impeding factor to the strength of the U.S. machine tool industry through the outlook period is the probability of intensified price competition from foreign machine tool builders in the domestic marketplace and the resulting net increase in import penetration.

"Machine tool builders should not allow the 1995 and 1996 booms in the business to leave them complacent and even more vulnerable to losing market share to their foreign counterparts," says Hanemann. ◉

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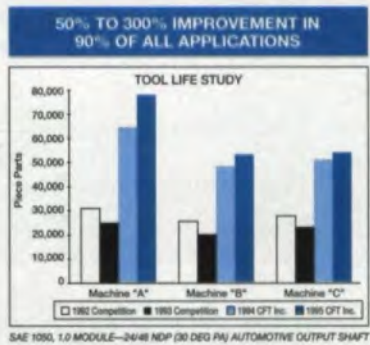
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