

Blaser Swisslube

CELEBRATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY

“Serving comes before earning” — This is the motto under which the lubricant manufacturer Blaser Swisslube is celebrating its 80th company anniversary. It all started back in 1936 with “Blaha-Glanz” — a shoe polish. A lot has happened since that time, and the family-run company in Hasle-Rüegsau (Switzerland) has developed from a small regional company into the global player. In the company’s own technology center, the focus is squarely on research and development. This focus has resulted in a breakthrough being achieved in a current civil aviation project.

The first successful product produced by the former Blaser+Co. AG was Blaha-Glanz, a water-repellent shoe polish that was sold on the surrounding farms. Willy Blaser laid the foundation for today’s company group in the crisis year, 1936. As a 20-year-old who had been unable to find work in the painting trade he had trained in, he founded a one-man company in his parent’s house where he produced lubricants and chemical-technical products especially for agriculture.

abroad. Due to the international orientation of the company, the company name was also changed to Blaser Swisslube. In 1981, Blaser Swisslube Inc. was founded in White Plains, New York with the first US production plant opened in Goshen, New York in 1986. In 1995 and 1996, subsidiaries in Germany, the Czech Republic and Japan followed. Today, Blaser has its own subsidiaries and agents close to its customers in around 60 countries across the globe and employs a total of 600 employees, with 300 of those being in Switzerland.

From metalworking fluid to liquid tool

The company continued to develop its expertise in all things to do with metalworking fluids. This involved the research and development laboratory being further expanded. With a surface area of around 3,500 m², 70 chemists, microbiologists and laboratory technicians work on creating coolants of the best quality, as well as on analyzing metalworking fluid samples from customers around the world.



Perseverance was the order of the day due to the shortage of raw materials during the war years.

The real upturn in the company’s fortunes began after the war when the customer base expanded to include, besides farmers, mechanical workshops, the construction industry, the wood and metal processing industries and the first industrial factories. “With the same pioneering spirit that was present when the company was founded, tireless work was done to continue to expand the company, to increase and modernize the manufacturing facilities, as well as to increase the level of research and development,” explains the grandson and current Managing Director, Marc Blaser.

Step-by-step to becoming a global player

In 1974, Peter Blaser (chairman of the board of directors since 2010) took up the torch and became the second generation to manage the company. As a mechanical engineer, he took steps to introduce metal processing in the company’s repertoire as well as to establish and expand the sales network in Europe and

In order to be able to offer customers an effective added value when it comes to machining, the company inaugurated its very own technology center in 2009. “Since then in the state-of-the-art processing centers we have been able to offer customers practical depictions of their machining operations, as well as to carry out stringent tests on newly developed coolants. For us, this is the technological advantage that we wish to continue to expand,” said Marc Blaser. “The factors productivity, economic efficiency and machining quality depend a great deal on the choice and quality of the metalworking fluid and on the expertise of machining specialists. Thanks to the in-house concentration of expertise, we are in a position to offer our partners a coolant solution that is tailored exactly to their needs — a liquid tool.”

Doubling of the tool life

In a recent project, Blaser experts in the technology center optimized tool life. A renowned partner filled the role of international supplier and manufactured aircraft parts from a high-



strength titanium alloy. In the technology center in Hasle-Rüegsau, a range of tests were started with the goal of optimizing the tool life during pocket machining.

The specialists at Blaser reconstructed the partner's situation on the DMG MORI DMU 65 monoblock and began comprehensive tests using a trochoidal milling strategy. This involved a conventional metalworking fluid from an earlier generation being compared with a coolant solution that has been adapted exactly to the partner's needs. The series of width of wear tests were conducted up to 0.30 mm. With the optimally adapted fluid tool from Blaser Swissslube, 11 instead of just five pockets could be milled until the wear on the tool forced the processing to be stopped. The result achieved was confirmed in a series of various tests, and corresponds to a doubling of the tool life. (www.blaser.com)

Emuge Corp.

OPENS NEW TECHNOLOGY CENTER IN MASSACHUSETTS

Emuge Corp. has announced the opening of a new technology center, located at the company's North American headquarters in West Boylston, Massachusetts. The center, designed to be a full-service resource for manufacturers to apply cutting tool application strategies, is equipped with the latest 3 and 5-axis vertical machining centers, precision measuring devices and tool monitoring, in addition to an interactive classroom for



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training and seminars. The technology center will serve customers across the U.S. and Canada, enabling manufacturing professionals to test cut their applications and develop milling, drilling, and threading strategies to optimize tool life and performance and reduce cycle times.

“Our new Technology Center was conceived as a resource for manufacturers to test new machining concepts and tools without tying up their valuable machines and manufacturing time,” explained Bob Hellinger, president of Emuge Corp. “Our tooling engineers work directly with customers to replicate actual machining processes and develop new tooling and application parameters with complete documentation.”

Three major services offered at the Emuge Corp. Technology Center include Test Cuts, CNC Programming Assistance and Comprehensive Training:

For the Test Cuts Program, customers can provide Emuge sample parts and prints for evaluation by experienced Emuge tooling engineers. Once approved, test cuts are performed and documented, along with optimal recommended solutions and strategies developed by Emuge.

For CNC Programming Assistance, Emuge programmers work closely with industry leading CAD/CAM provides such as Mastercam, Open Mind and others, to help the user generate maximum machining performance and incorporate optimal tool designs. Emuge will provide customers programming assistance, a wide range of CAM tools for solving complex applications, efficient toolpaths, sub routines and optimization.

Emuge also provides Training and Development in an inter-

active classroom supported by CNC machining equipment for hands-on, real-time training. Training and seminars will be offered throughout the year on various topics, or custom training can be provided to meet the needs of individual companies. (www.emuge.com)

Star SU and Neher Group

ENTER JOINT VENTURE

Star SU LLC and Neher DIA GmbH & Co. KG have entered a joint venture partnership that appoints Star SU to sell Neher's PCD tooling portfolio in North America. The addition of Neher's comprehensive line of diamond tools, including finish reamers, combination tools and PCD/CBN inserts, complements Star SU's current cutting tool offering to provide a full service turnkey solution.



Star SU LLC president David Goodfellow, Neher Group president Gerd Neher, and Star Cutter Company chairman Brad Lawton.

David Goodfellow, president of Star SU LLC, is very pleased with the new partnership. “Star SU is elated to team together with Neher to bring world-class engineering and PCD cutting tool quality to the North American market. Neher carries a strong presence in automotive, aerospace and woodworking in Europe, and we are excited to expand our product line to best support our customer base.”

Neher Group president, Gerd Neher agreed: “By combining Star SU's extensive network in the North American industry and Neher's technological expertise in the field of precision tools, we formed a very powerful cooperation to serve the American market.” (www.star-su.com)

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AGMA

AWARDS MAIURI WITH THE TECHNICAL DIVISION COMMITTEE AWARD

It has been a tradition of AGMA's Technical Division to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of individual committee members with the Technical Division Executive Committee (TDEC) Award.

The award recognizes the countless hours of dedicated work that lead to the development of the standards that have benefited our industry over the last 100 years. The 2016 recipient is **Buzz Maiuri** from Gleason Works. Maiuri has spent his career in the industry, recently celebrating 50 years of service for Gleason this past July. He is currently the chair of the AGMA TDEC. His many years of dedication and countless hours of service to the industry through his leadership was acknowledged at the AGMA Fall Technical Meeting. (www.agma.org)



LMC Workholding

WELCOMES VICE PRESIDENT OF MACHINE TOOL PRODUCTS

LMC Workholding recently announced **Pat Klein** as the new vice president of machine tool products. Klein has a diverse manufacturing sales background, selling in multiple channels including phone, field and commercial sales, as well as high volume sales management.

Klein graduated from Albion College with a B.A in Economics and Management and from Arizona State University with an MBA, an Emphasis in Supply Chain Management. He has worked in the telesales and field sales departments for a large metalworking distributor before joining LMC and also held the position of district sales manager.

"We are excited about the addition of Pat to the LMC Workholding leadership team and look forward to great things from him and the team as he grows into the role," said Jay Duerr, president of LMC Workholding. "He will be an asset to the company and we look forward to the growth and strategy development that he will add." (www.lmcworkholding.com)



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Klingelberg

SHOWS OFF CYLINDRICAL GEAR TECHNOLOGY IN GERMANY

At a two-day event, gear industry experts from Europe, Asia and the United States had the opportunity to take a close look at the Höfler cylindrical gear machines from Klingelberg. At the in-house show on November 9-10, the company's latest innovation, direct networking of a Höfler cylindrical gear machine with a Klingelberg precision measuring center, was the center of focus.

During the two-day in-house show (Ettlingen Oberweier, Germany), the machine manufacturer Klingelberg presented its wide range of Höfler cylindrical gear machines – and therefore cutting-edge technology in the cylindrical gear machining sector. 100 gear experts from Europe, Asia and the USA were invited and took the opportunity to take a look behind the scenes and talk shop with the Klingelberg specialists. A total of 13 exhibition areas at the Ettlingen works were dedicated to showcasing the innovative and versatile solutions as well as the very latest technological processes.

The latest development from the system provider enables direct networking of a closed loop cylindrical gear machine with a measuring device. This technology was previously only possible with bevel gear machines. "By transferring the established Klingelberg closed loop concept for cylindrical gears, we link the machining centers with the measuring machine and are therefore driving digitization of gear manufacturing firmly forward," explains Dr. Christof Gorgels, head of the precision measuring center product line. "The closed loop concept for cylindrical gears is based on an open interface and automates machine correction," he continues.

To demonstrate how the latest Industry 4.0 compliant development can be used for practical production, a Viper 500 cylindrical gear grinding machine was networked with the P 40 measuring machine at the works. "We have been waiting



Klingelberg presented its wide range of Höfler cylindrical gear machines during a recent event in Germany. (photo courtesy of Klingelberg).

for this interface!" comments a delighted Willi Humbel, chairman of the board of directors of Humbel Zahnräder AG. "This development will help us tremendously to simplify production of our toothed gears and improve the quality of our components at the same time."

Digitization in production was the main topic at the two-day event. Höfler cylindrical gear grinding machines are not only hallmarked by reliable and highly-developed hardware, but the company's own GearPro software also guarantees convenient machining and ensures maximum efficiency in daily use.

In addition, attendees were able to obtain information about the wide range of services of the machine construction company. With the "Höfler Service Gate" remote maintenance concept, a global communication network will be established in the future from the Ettlingen Oberweier site. At the beginning of the technology show, visitors examined a customized eight meter high Höfler HF 6000 cylindrical gear cutting machine at the plant entrance. This cylindrical gear cutting machine for workpieces with a diameter of up to six meters is nothing less than the largest cutting machine in the world with an automated deburring and chamfering unit. (www.klingelberg.com)

Gear Motions

RELAUNCHES PRO-GEAR DIVISION

The Pro-Gear Division of Gear Motions Inc. is being relaunched as a gear grind only division. Pro-Gear will focus exclusively on providing high precision, high quality gear grinding services with quick turnaround time and low tooling cost. This service will appeal to gear manufacturers that need additional capacity and machine shops that require external gear grinding services. Pro-Gear's extensive range of state-of-the-art equipment ensures precision ground gears that adhere to tight customer specifications. Pro-Gear Co. Inc. was acquired by Gear Motions Inc. in 2012 and resides within the company's Oliver Gear Division in Buffalo, NY. As part of the Gear Motions network, Pro-Gear's capabilities are matched with years of experience to bring its customers high quality gear grinding services to meet even the most demanding schedules. (www.gearmotions.com)