

**WORLD'S FIRST DOUBLE-DIE AUSFORM FINISHING MACHINE INSTALLED AT PENN STATE**

The world's first production-capable, double-die ausform finishing machine has been installed at the National Center for Advanced Drivetrain Technologies at Penn State University. The installation process and the systems integration is complete, and prototype production and specimen evaluation will begin shortly.

The end-of-project demonstration of the installation is scheduled for early this spring.

Ausform finishing is a low-temperature, thermomechanical process that was developed at Penn State to precision finish spur and helical gears. It integrates gear heat treatment and hard finishing processes into a single, in-line automated manufacturing operation which, according to the NCADT, will improve performance and reliability and reduce manufacturing costs.

The machine is capable of processing spur and helical gears from 1.5" to 8.0" in diameter (face widths of up to 2") and tooth sizes from 6 to 26 DP. It can handle carburized steels, through-hardening steels and powder metal gears.

Companies involved in the construction of the machine include National Broach & Machine, Contour Hardening Inc., and MTS Inc.

**AMERICAN WERA TO REPRESENT HOBBIING MACHINE MANUFACTURER**

American Wera Inc., the North American source for the Profilator®, and other synchronized dry cutting machinery, will also represent Hurth Modul GmbH, a German manufacturer of gear hobbing machines. Hurth Modul is not to be confused with Hurth Maschinen und Werkzeug GmbH, which was recently acquired by Gleason Corp.

Hurth Modul makes gear hobbing and bevel gear cutting machines with CNC controls, compact design, and automatic work-changing systems for hob arbors and workpiece fixtures.

**KLINGELNBERG PURCHASES HÖFLER**

As of January 1, Sigma Pool of Saline, MI, will integrate the Höfler gear measuring machines into its North American sales and service program. The Höfler inspection machine division in Ettlingen, Germany, was purchased in May, 1996, from Carl Zeiss by Klingelberg Sohne. Klingelberg, Liebherr, Lorenz and Oerlikon make up the Sigma Pool. Höfler will market its range of 3-D CNC gear inspection centers through the group's Sigma Pool location at Liebherr-America in Saline.

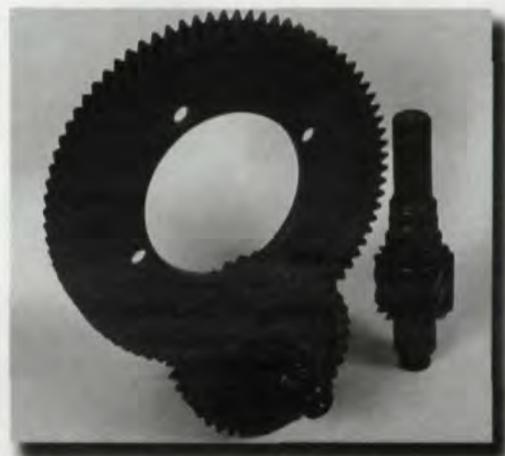
**PETER KOVAR, U.S. TECH PARTNER, GEAR TECHNOLOGY AUTHOR, DIES**

E. Peter Kovar of U. S. Tech Corporation, Wheaton, IL, passed away on December 9 after a long bout with cancer. Prior to joining U. S. Tech, Peter worked for some years for American Pfauter. He also wrote a number of articles on computer software and machine controls for *Gear Technology*.

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