

## Siemens

### CHOOSES KANSAS FOR FIRST U.S. NACELLE PLANT



Hutchinson, KS is the proud new home of Siemens Energy's first U.S. nacelle production facility, which will consist of a 300,000-square-foot plant and an adjacent 80,000-square-foot service and repair facility. The operation represents the first major wind turbine equipment factory in Kansas, which is ranked third in the country for its wind energy resource potential. Siemens estimates the factory will create 400 jobs.

"The United States already is and will continue to be one of the world's fastest growing wind energy markets. We are thus intensifying our commitment to this green technology to further expand our leading global position in this field," says Peter Loscher, CEO of Siemens AG. "We are already the leading green infrastructure giant. And by making these investments, we will become even greener."

Hutchinson, located in Reno County, northwest of Wichita on the Arkansas River, was chosen after a broad-ranging search in which several finalist locations competed for selection. Being near the geographic center of the lower 48 states, Hutchinson offers a viable workforce and transportation logistics. The factory will provide direct loading onto rail, so project locations throughout the United States and Canada will be easily accessible.

"We are excited to welcome Siemens to Hutchinson, Kansas," said Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson at the official announcement May 5, at the Windpower show in Chicago. "Siemens is a global leader and innovator in the production of wind turbines. Any time a company of this magnitude chooses Kansas, it speaks volumes about our business climate, our workforce and our prime location in the nation's wind corridor."

Groundbreaking is anticipated for August this year, and the first nacelle is expected to ship from the factory in December 2010. The nacelles from this facility will be used in Siemens' 2.3 MW turbines. The factory's planned annual output is 650 nacelles or 1,500 megawatts initially. The service and repair facility plans to begin service earlier in a temporary space in the area until the facility is finished.

Siemens Wind Power has grown from zero to 800 employees in the United States since 2005. The company plans to double that in the next two to three years. U.S. operations include a wind turbine service operation in Houston, a 600,000-square-foot blade manufacturing facility in Ft. Madison, IA, an R&D center in Boulder, CO and the Americas headquarters in Orlando, FL.

"This nacelle facility in Kansas means we are able to further expand U.S. dollar-based sourcing from qualified suppliers," says Rene Umlauf, CEO of the Siemens Energy Renewables Division. "It is our goal to reach greater than 90 percent U.S. dollar-based content by 2012 in order to better and more cost-efficiently meet the demand for our high-quality wind turbines in the United States. Also, the expanded service presence will improve our responsiveness by being centrally located to key customers, and it will add capabilities in larger component repair."

Siemens also announced the first U.S. order from Minnesota Power for 33 units of the SWT-t.3-101 wind turbine set for deployment at the Bison I wind project near Center, ND. The first 16 turbines are planned for installation in 2010 with the remainder following in 2011. At its completion, Bison I is expected to generate up to 75 MW and provide power for more than 22,500 homes in Minnesota.

## Nixon Gear

### CERTIFIED WITH NEW ISO QUALITY STANDARD

ISO 9001:2008, the latest edition of the quality standard, was established two months before Syracuse, NY-based Nixon Gear, a subsidiary of Gear Motions, Inc., received the certification. The standard endorses that a company or organization is applying formalized business processes. The standard requires the continual improvement of a company management team, and as stated in the standard's introduction, "This standard promotes the adoption of a process approach. An advantage of the process approach is the ongoing



Onandaga County executive Joanie Mahoney presents the ISO 9001:2008 certification to Nixon Gear employees.

control that it provides over the linkage between individual processes within the system of processes, as well as over their combination and interaction.”

According to Mark Bechteler, manager of quality and continuous improvement at Nixon Gear, “We’ve been a ‘process company’ for many years, and this registration validates how mature and robust the quality system we use every day to build our high precision gears is already operating.”

## Brevini Wind

### ACCELERATES INDIANA OPERATION PLANS

Due to increased market demands, Brevini Wind’s proposed main drive manufacturing operation in Muncie, IN has been pushed ahead of the original schedule by six months. Brevini expects to start manufacturing gearboxes in Muncie by late in the third quarter of 2010 instead of the first quarter 2011.

“We have reached the point with new original equipment manufacturer customer contracts and ongoing conversations where we must move up our scheduled start of production to serve the needs of our customers,” says Dr. Jacopo Tozzi, CEO of Brevini Wind, in a press release.

Brevini chose GDI Construction as the design firm responsible for building the gearbox production facility. Groundbreaking on the site is anticipated to start in July and be completed in March 2010. Brevini will produce 1,000 gearboxes per year, ranging in size from 1.5 MW to 3.65 MW, and a second phase expansion is tentatively planned to double the manufacturing capacity by 2015.

The groundbreaking event will feature a supply chain conference to help potential local, state and regional suppliers meet Brevini’s needs. This is being coordinated with local and state officials from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Indiana Office of Energy Development, WorkOne, Ball State University and Ivy Tech Community College.

“The Brevini Company values the close working relationship and tremendous support it has received from each of these organizations with the preparation of the perspective workforce and supplier base,” says Greg Winkler, director of project development for Brevini Wind.

Work is already under way on the previously announced relocation of Brevini USA’s North American headquarters, which is scheduled for completion in July.

## GE Drivetrain Technologies

### LAUNCHES GENERATOR AND CONTROL SYSTEM DIVISION



GE Drivetrain Technologies, a unit of GE Transportation, is expanding its wind industry portfolio by introducing a wind generator and control systems division specifically aimed at serving GE wind turbine customers worldwide. The formal announcement was made at AWEA’s Windpower show in Chicago.

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## NEWS

“GE Transportation has a proud tradition of designing and building complete drive train systems, including electrical components, for rugged environments,” says Prescott Logan, business leader for GE Drivetrain Technologies. “Our objective is to apply the full range of GE Transportation’s capability to advance the state of the art in wind energy generation technology.”

Last year, GE introduced the IntegraDrive integrated geared generator for the wind industry. Combining the gearbox, generator and power controls, GE has essentially taken off the gearbox’s third stage and attached the generator directly to it. GE produces more than 3,000 generators annually, mostly between 2 and 6 MW.

Despite the current softness of the market due to the global economic crisis, Logan remains optimistic about the wind industry. “We feel really good about wind. It’s here to stay. Renewables are an important part of the new energy future,” he says. “We’re finding ways to continually grow.”

### Innovative Machine Tool Solutions

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## Newcomer GBE PARTNERS WITH DONTYNE

A group of mechanical transmission design engineers that formerly worked for a leading aircraft engine manufacturer formally established GBE, or Gears and Bearings Engineering, operating out of Oakville, Ontario. GBE is managed by Nasr Kenawy, who spent over three decades working for Pratt & Whitney Canada.

GBE works on mechanical transmission technologies that include tailored industrial transmissions, oil industry transmissions for drilling and extraction (top-drive gearboxes), main and accessory gearboxes for experimental and general aviation, renewable energy equipment such as wind turbine gearboxes and solar tracking mechanisms, gearing for aircraft landing, robotics transmissions, advanced concepts for experimental equipment and gear systems for test rigs.

Services GBE provides include sales and support for Dontyne Systems’ gear design software, optimization studies and concept selection, detail design for customer concepts and specification, analysis of optimization of customer design, modification and adaptation of existing designs, technical reports for designs as well as technical support for

manufacturing testing prototypes and production.

The agreement with Dontyne targets the North American sales market. "We will be working very closely with the company on the sale of our gear design and analysis products in North America. The support will be improved for our existing customers in the region," says Mike Fish, co-director of Dontyne Systems.

"We believe the agreement we have in place with GBE will be beneficial beyond simply the improved support for our software product," Fish says. "Their engineering knowledge will help us to address a certain growing requirement to use the software in a consultancy capacity."

Kenawy says GBE also works closely with a few manufacturing houses in Ontario, providing the possibility to prototype and produce hardware of GBE designs. The company was officially registered in November 2008, and its website, [www.gbengineering.ca](http://www.gbengineering.ca), was launched at the end of May. General inquiries can be made to [contact@gbengineering.ca](mailto:contact@gbengineering.ca).

Although less than a year in operation, the company is actively pursuing various endeavors. "Our first project was a design of a top drive gearbox for an oil exploration company," Kenawy says. "Since then, we are bidding on three projects in various applications, namely aerospace, oil drilling and wind turbine."

## Bosch Rexroth

### OPENS WIND TURBINE GEARBOX PLANT IN NUREMBERG



Nuremberg, Germany is the new home to Bosch Rexroth's latest wind turbine gearbox manufacturing facility. Spanning  
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five football fields, the plant is expected to produce 300 large gearboxes this year. By 2013, Bosch Rexroth expects to invest a total of \$246 million (180 million euros) into the plant.

“The long-term forecasts continue to predict global growth for the wind power market,” says Reiner Leipold-Büttner, a member of the Bosch Rexroth AG executive board responsible for engineering and manufacturing at the parent company. “As the world’s largest independent supplier of gearboxes and automation solutions for wind turbines, Bosch Rexroth will benefit from this market development.”

## Sandvik

### ESTABLISHES AEROSPACE APPLICATION CENTER



Sandvik Coromant's aerospace application center opened in Fairlawn, NJ to focus on customers readdressing current processes.

Sandvik Coromant opened the doors to the Aerospace Application Center in Fair Lawn, NJ April 28. The center focuses on machining projects for high temperature and titanium alloys for engine components and aero frame structural parts. Sandvik's goal is to concentrate on customers interested in readdressing their current processes.

Equipped with the latest machines for developing highly productive processes for aerospace applications, the center is supported by a team of industry specialists, process and development engineers and CAM programmers.

## Gildemeister, Mori Seiki

### SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Gildemeister formed a strategic partnership with Mori Seiki Co. covering production, purchasing and machine development in addition to sales and services in select markets. The agreement allows both companies to extend business activities with short- and long-term mutual advantages. The goal is to achieve synergies of 15 million euros a year for both companies.

A cross shareholding was agreed upon, with each investing in 5 percent shares. Gildemeister purchased two million Mori Seiki shares and plans to increase this to 4.4 million shares, while Mori Seiki will purchase 2.3 million shares. This makes Mori Seiki the largest, single Gildemeister shareholder.

“The world of machine tools has become global. Meeting and overcoming the challenges of the international economic crisis demands strong alliances,” says Dr. Rüdinger Kapitza, chairman of the Gildemeister executive board. “We will bundle our resources in order to achieve joint efficiency advantages.”

## Xspect Solutions

### LAUNCHES RENT2MEASURE PROGRAM

Manufacturers can rent brand new Wenzel X-Orbit CMMs with no long-term purchase commitment in Xspect Solution’s Rent2Measure program. Users have the opportunity to apply 65 percent of the rental payments to offset the purchase price of the CMM at any time during the rental period.

“A rental program for CMMs is a first for a U.S.-based CMM manufacturer,” says Keith Mills, president of Xspect Solutions. “As the nature of U.S. manufacturing evolves in these uncertain times, equipment suppliers like Xspect Solutions have to be more creative in the way they market

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GT09

## Correction

The May issue of *Gear Technology* featured an industry news item “Gear Technology Recognized by Boeing for Excellence,” on page 61. Gear Technology was mistakenly identified as being located in Newport Beach, CA. The company is actually based out of Rancho Cucamonga, CA. We offer our sincere regret for this mistake.

—The Editorial Staff

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their products as well. As program schedules and quantities for parts suppliers shrink, the need for quality still remains very high. However, the ability to justify new capital equipment in support of these smaller programs has been reduced. For that reason, Xspect Solutions created the new Rent2Measure CMM rental program that allows manufacturers to have a new Wenzel X-Orbit 8.10.7 with a Renishaw PH10T/TP20 probe on their shop floor for six to 36 months, depending on the need.

“Additional features for the CMM include a complete suite of *OpenDMIS* software, a MCR20 styli change rack, installation and CMM calibration program as well as three days of operator training for two operators. Also, we will provide the CMM XtraCare package, which covers all breakdowns, *OpenDMIS* software upgrades as released, on-site Dell PC warranty, Renishaw probing warranty and help-desk applications and software support up to the maximum rental period of 36 months. The cost of a typical CMM under the Rent2Measure program is \$2,975 per month.”