

Apologies

I'd like to apologize to the dedicated people working on revisions to the AGMA 925 standard and the Technical Report ISO 15144-1, both of which deal with the issue of micropitting. In the March/April issue of *Gear Technology*, we published an opinion piece in our *Voices* column that harshly criticized the methods for predicting micropitting outlined in ISO 15144-1. The piece, called "Critique of the ISO 15144-1 Method to Predict the Risk of Micropitting," was written by Bob Errichello, whose opinions we have valued (and continue to value) as a *Gear Technology* technical editor for more than 25 years.

What we had hoped to do was educate the gear community about the very complicated failure mode known as micropitting and to highlight the hard work done by volunteers around the world to advance the science of gears.

We never intended to undermine the work of the committees by making this discussion public. ISO 15144-1 may eventually be put forth as an international standard, but there is much work and discussion yet to be done. Many of the same people working on ISO 15144-1 are also involved with revisions to AGMA 925. So specifically, we apologize to Robin Olson, chairperson of the AGMA 925 sub-committee and U.S. delegate to ISO TC 60/WG 6 & 15; Dr.-Ing. Thomas Tobie, German delegate to ISO TC 60/WG 6 & 15; and any other committee members or delegates who may have taken offense.

While I am disappointed that we were a party to exposing these internal discussions, I think there is some good to come out of it. I, for one, have a much better appreciation for the depth of discussion involved in the development of international gear standards. When you use a standard, you don't need to know every bit of research, technology and engineering that has gone into it. But it's clear every bit is discussed in committee, at a depth of understanding that goes far beyond most of us, even those who specialize in gear engineering. The people who develop standards for our industry's benefit are true experts, and they deserve our respect, across the board.

More importantly, they could probably use our help.

I invite you to re-read Buzz Maiuri's *Voices* piece, "Make Volunteering the Norm," from the May issue of *Gear Technology*. Buzz is a senior product/project manager for The Gleason Works, and he is Chairman of the AGMA Technical Division Executive Committee. In Buzz's piece, he describes the importance of getting involved with the technical committees and participating in the development of our industry's standards, information sheets and other technical documents. Whatever your formal education and training, participation on these committees can be a great benefit to you personally as well as to your company.



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At one point, Buzz describes a young engineer who joined one of the technical committees early in his career. That engineer was often charged with doing research and working with some of the more experienced experts on the committee. After years of participation, he became an expert himself, eventually moving up to become the vice president of engineering at a very large gear manufacturing company. The probability is that he would not have had the knowledge or opportunity to rise so high in his career had he not participated in the AGMA committee.

If you're curious or ambitious, and seek to obtain knowledge and stature within the field of gearing, participating in AGMA or ISO technical committees is a natural extension in your growth as a gear engineer. In fact, it's more an opportunity than an obligation. No matter what our educational background, the education we receive by working with other dedicated professionals in our industry provides a foundation for our future. As we move through our lives and our careers, we should be looking at opportunities to build on that foundation to grow personally and professionally through our lifetimes.

If you have any interest in becoming one of the experts of the future, get involved today. If your company is already a member of AGMA, I encourage you to get started by contacting Amir Aboutaleb at AGMA (aboutaleb@agma.org). If not, then access to this type of lifelong learning and networking is a great reason to consider joining.