

# Get Smarter at Gear Expo

**As I sit here working on this editorial, it's already late Spring. Most days have been under 60° here in Chicago, and rain almost every day is the norm.**

So, before we get distracted by warm breezes and summer blooms, I want to talk about the Fall.

This is a Gear Expo year, and in October, the American Gear Manufacturers Association (AGMA) will put on its biennial exhibition in Columbus, Ohio. You might think that October is still a long way off, but summer can be fleeting. All it takes is getting busy with a project or a new business opportunity, and months can go by in the blink of an eye. So I want you to start thinking now about Gear Expo and the many benefits you can get by attending.

As always, you can expect all of the suppliers to our industry to exhibit their latest technologies, including new machinery, processes, tooling, workholding and more. Additionally—and perhaps more importantly—this is a unique opportunity for you to meet and interact with a wide variety of people from these exhibitors. These companies are not at Gear Expo just to sell you something. They're there to educate you as well. So you can expect to meet with not only salespeople, but also the dedicated gear industry professionals who are involved with engineering, maintenance and installation of the latest technology, along with the key corporate leaders who provide valuable insight into our industry.

So don't just go to the show thinking about the new machines you might like to purchase. Instead, go there thinking that this is the best and most efficient opportunity you're likely to have to tap into the greatest wealth of gear manufacturing knowledge on the planet. These people work with companies like yours all over the world. They know things about how your peers and competitors operate. They've probably already helped solve problems for others that you've only just recently become aware of. Going to Gear Expo isn't just a shopping trip. It's a learning expedition.

And it's also an important opportunity for those of you who don't make gears, but buy them. It's an often overlooked part of the show, but one that's gaining in importance. More than 50 gear and gearbox manufacturers are slated to exhibit this year, including manufacturers of cut metal, powder metal and plastic gears, as well as manufacturers of custom gearboxes for a wide range of applications and industries. According to AGMA President Matt Croson, Gear Expo will continue its evolution from a gear manufacturing show into a more complete mechanical power transmission show. So, if you design, buy or use gears or gear drives, I think you'll find just as much at Gear Expo as your gear manufacturing counterparts.



**Publisher & Editor-in-Chief**  
Michael Goldstein

We also hope that when you come to Gear Expo, you'll visit us in our booth (#1022). Two years ago, we presented the first ever live edition of our popular "Ask the Experts" column. We had four sessions – Gear Grinding, Cutting Tools, Gear Design and "Ask Anything," – featuring experts such as Dr. Hermann Stadtfeld of The Gleason Works, Dr. Hartmuth Mueller of Klingelberg, Dr. Andreas Mehr of Liebherr, and Dr. Karsten Stahl, head of the FZG research group at the Technical University of Munich, as well as our own technical editors, Chuck Schultz and Octave Labath. All of these people made themselves available to our live audience to address problems and answer questions. It was such a resounding success, that we're doing it again at the 2017 show. Although we're still finalizing our lineup, you can anticipate a similar level of gear-related technical knowledge and experience among our experts. So, if you're having a particular design, manufacturing or any other type of problem relating to gears, this is a great opportunity to learn more.

As if that's not enough, there's even more to learn off the show floor. Leading up to and overlapping the first day of Gear Expo, AGMA will be running its Fall Technical Meeting (October 22–24), which is a yearly offering of the latest technical articles, papers and presentations. This year's batch of sessions includes a great mix of cutting-edge technical discussions and basics, so it's a great learning opportunity for both the experienced gear engineer and the newbie.

For more information about the show, including all the educational opportunities available there, visit [www.gearexpo.com](http://www.gearexpo.com). Register to come to the show. Make plans to stay as long as you're able. I'm confident you'll be rewarded by what you find there.