

Maximizing Power Density



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Increasing the power density of a gearbox is often a design engineer's primary goal.

When you can maximize the amount of torque being driven without increasing the size and weight of a gearbox, you've won, because consumers and users of gearboxes want big torque in a small package.

But the desire to maximize power density applies to more than just gearboxes. Take trade shows, for instance. The same principle applies, except instead of torque, the goal is to maximize knowledge. There's no better place to see that in action than the upcoming MPT Expo.

Sure, this year's MPT Expo is going to be smaller than at any time in recent memory. The world's continuing struggle with COVID pretty much guarantees that there will be fewer exhibitors and fewer attendees than anyone is used to. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't go.

In fact, I encourage it, because MPT Expo is the power density king of trade shows. What it lacks in size, it more than makes up for in focus. All the leading suppliers in our industry will be there, across the complete supply chain. If you manufacture gears, you'll find more knowledge, experience and technology on the show floor at MPT Expo than you can find anywhere else. So if you have questions about how to integrate skiving into your manufacturing operations, the experts will be at MPT Expo to help you. Similarly, if you have challenges in workholding, heat treating or inspection, the experts will be there. They'll also be there to show you ways to increase productivity by employing the latest technology in machine tools, tool coatings and more. And if you need to outsource your gear manufacturing, or you need specialized gear manufacturing capabilities, you'll find many of the world's leading gear manufacturing job shops and manufacturers of gear drives exhibiting as well.

Sure, you can read about all those things in our magazine (especially in our show coverage, beginning on page 24). Or you can visit the websites of all the suppliers to learn about their latest products. But nothing beats the give and take of a one-on-one conversation with someone who not only understands your problems, but also has the experience to help you solve them — who, in fact, has probably already solved similar problems for companies just like yours. MPT Expo is where you meet those people, where you have those conversations and where you build the relationships with experts who can help you for years to come.

I know travel is difficult, and some of you may not be able to make it to St. Louis this year. But I also know that many of you have begun business travel again, and if that's the case for you, then MPT Expo is the place to be from September 14-16.

If you do make it to the show, please come find me at the AGMA booth, where I hope to have the same kind of in-depth, meaningful conversations with readers that have guided this magazine since it began more than 37 years ago. I'd love to learn more about what you're thinking, how your business is doing and how we can provide more and better information to help you navigate the trends and technology of our industry over the next few years.

I've been coming to this show (including its predecessor, Gear Expo) since 1995, and every year I'm impressed by the level of technological know-how gathered together in one place.

It may be a small show, but it's got a lot of power, and I hope to see you there.