

# Gear Industry News

## Longtime President of Star Cutter Dies

Norman Ballard Lawton, president of Star Cutter Co. for more than 50 years, died June 29. He was 88 years old.

First located in Detroit, Star Cutter was started in 1927 by his father, Howard Lawton, and Frank Burgess and had 10 employees. Norman Lawton became president of the cutting tool company in 1945.

While he was president, Star Cutter grew to a company with more than 900 employees working in plants in several states. Also, the company introduced many practices and innovations to cutting tool manufacturing and patented advances for producing metal cutting tools.

Mr. Lawton was born June 25, 1914 in Athol, MA. While he was a child, his family moved to Detroit. He later studied engineering for three years at the University of Michigan, located in Ann Arbor, MI. With the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Lawton returned to Detroit to work in his father's business.

His surviving son, Bradley L.

Lawton, succeeded him as president of Star Cutter Co. in 1995.

## Founder of Barit International Dies

Alexander Polevoy, founder of gear cutting tool company Barit International Corp., died June 22 of lung cancer. He was 57 years old.

Mr. Polevoy started his career in the gear industry after graduating in 1969 from Minsk Polytechnic Institute, located in Minsk, Belarus. He graduated with a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

Born August 10, 1944 in Moscow, Russia, he immigrated in 1978 to the United States. Once in America, he worked at Overton Gear & Tool Corp. of Addison, IL, rising to the position of chief process engineer.

In 1989, Mr. Polevoy left Overton and founded Barit International Corp. Based in Northbrook, IL, Barit provides gear cutting tools.

Mr. Polevoy served as president of Barit until he died. His son Vladimir succeeded him as president of Barit.

## Bourn & Koch, Star-SU Divide Assets of Fellows Corp.

Bourn & Koch Machine Tool Co. and Star-SU Inc. bought the gear shaper machine tool and cutting tool manufacturing assets of Fellows Corp.

According to Star-SU's press release, the assets related to the manufacture of Fellows gear shaping machines, involute/lead masters and related products, part inventory and work-in-process were bought by Bourn & Koch of Rockford, IL. Bourn & Koch will continue to manufacture Fellows machines and parts from its Rockford facility.

Through Bourn & Koch, Star-SU of Hoffman Estates, IL, acquired all assets

relating to the manufacture of Fellows gear shaper cutting tools, including inventory and work-in-process. Star-SU will continue to manufacture Fellows disk-type, shank-type, fine pitch, special and cam shaper cutters using the Fellows/Star-SU name.

Both companies entered into a general marketing agreement. Star-SU will promote, represent and sell Bourn & Koch-built Fellows gear shapers through Star-SU and Bourn & Koch distribution channels.

Fellows Corp., previously owned by Goldman Industrial Group, ceased operations on Feb. 13 and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

## Philadelphia Gear Appoints New General Manager

Philadelphia Gear Corp. of Norristown, PA, hired John Maskaluk as general manager of its western region, headquartered in Lynwood, CA.

According to the company's press release, Maskaluk will manage the company's manufacturing and service center, overseeing its transition toward a more customer-centered business model.

## New Director of Metrology for Process Equipment Co.

Mark Cowan was named director of metrology of Process Equipment Co., which manufactures gear measurement systems in Tipp City, OH.

Among his new responsibilities will be managing the software development for the Windows-based Next Dimension gear measurement system.

Cowan has held technical positions in the gear industry for 19 years.

## Chicago Gear Acquires Franke Gear Works

Chicago Gear, a subsidiary of D.O. James Corp., acquired Franke Gear Works of Chicago, IL.

Franke will continue to specialize in manufacturing precision ground racks and double enveloping worm sets.

In its press release, Chicago Gear said this acquisition adds gear grinding capacity to its recently purchased Niles Kopf grinder.

Chicago Gear manufactures gears and gearboxes and is located in Chicago, IL.

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