

### **AGMA Welcomes Five New Members**

The American Gear Manufacturers Association announced in its quarterly publication that five new companies recently joined the ranks as members.

The new members are:

- AK Gears,
- Metso Minerals,
- Drive-All Manufacturing Co.,
- ExxonMobil Research & Engineering Co., and
- L & H Industrial.

### **Fairfield Receives \$9 Million Contract**

Fairfield Manufacturing, a division of the Saurer AG Group, received a \$9 million contract to provide jacking drive gearbox assemblies to GustoMSC. The contract stipulates that Fairfield provide ABS certified jacking drive planetary gearboxes lifting more than 300 tons each and rated for output torque of more than one million N-m.

“At five times the size of our largest planetary unit, this development helps Fairfield reach the next level of TorqueHub planetary drive solutions to meet market needs in marine/offshore market applications,” says Paul Schlueter, vice president of sales for Fairfield.

### **Renold Discusses Sale of Machine Tool Business**

The Board of Renold plc announced that the company is in advanced negotiations with Venture Private Equity regarding the acquisition by VPE of business and certain assets of Renold's Holroyd machine tool business.

The Board announced on June 6 that it is in separate discussions regarding the potential sale of the Group's automotive business. According to the company's press release, proceeds for both potential divestments will be used to reduce the group debt.

### **ANCA Pty. Invests \$4 Million in Australia and Opens Thai Manufacturing Facility**

ANCA Pty. will invest \$4 million in Australia and officially opened its first overseas manufacturing facility, located in the Rayong province of Thailand.

According to the company's press release, these investments are part of a strategic plan to enable ANCA to continue its 30% year-on-year production growth rate.

The company is currently exporting more than 98% of production from its facilities located in the Melbourne suburb of Bayswater North. It has exported more than \$500 million in the past six years.

The company plans to expand the more skilled technical operations in Australia while producing some of the less technical assemblies overseas.

“This will be a win-win for both Australia and Thailand and will allow ANCA to continue to increase production of finished machines in Australia to satisfy a growing global need,” says group general manager Linsey Siede.

The facility in Thailand is currently manufacturing and exporting fully wired electrical cabinets and canopies to Australia for the high-tech grinding machines that ANCA builds in Melbourne. ANCA will manufacture in Thailand a number of sub-assemblies, which will then be exported to Australia for final assembly into the completed machines.

### **Northstar Aerospace Reports Increased Revenue**

Northstar Aerospace reported revenue totaling \$36.8 million for the three months ending June 30, 2006, an increase of \$3.6 million when compared to the same time period for 2005. For the six months ending June 30, revenue increased to \$73 million in 2006 from \$68.9 million in 2005.

Mark Emery, president and CEO of Northstar Aerospace, says, “The second quarter demonstrated broad-based growth with established customers, such as The Boeing Co. and Honeywell, as well as on new programs, in particular the Rolls Royce Trent 1000 (aircraft engine).”

### **Toyota Raises Transmission Production Capacity in Poland**

Toyota Motor Corp. announced that Toyota Motor Manufacturing Poland Sp.zo.o, a producer of transmissions and engines, will increase its annual production capacity of manual transmissions from the current 600,000 units to 720,000 units by mid-2009.

According to the company's press release, this increase is being implemented to further promote Toyota's localization in Europe. A new production line will be established within the plant site.

TMMP will invest approximately 19.7 billion yen (about \$170 million) and hire 260 new employees to establish the new line and upgrade the current line.

### **Getrag to Sell Synchron Business Unit to Hoerbiger**

The Getrag Group plans to sell Getrag Synchron Technik GmbH to Hoerbiger Drive Technology on Oct. 1.

After the contractual arrangements are completed, Hoerbiger will become a strategic partner for Getrag. According to a press release issued jointly by the companies, Hoerbiger will be able to supply Getrag locally at various sites worldwide.

The acquisition will accelerate Hoerbiger's international development. In May, Hoerbiger acquired Taizhou Orient Gear Co. Ltd. and integrated the company into the group under the name of Hoerbiger Orient Gear (Taizhou) Co. Ltd.

**American Axle Announces Executive Appointments**

American Axle announced several executive appointments.

John J. Bellanti was appointed vice president of manufacturing planning, capital planning and cost estimating. According to the company's press release, he has worked at four of AAM's manufacturing facilities. He has held numerous positions within the company, most recently vice president of engineering and chief technology officer.

Allan R. Monich was appointed vice president of quality assurance and customer satisfaction. He has worked in the automotive industry for the past 30 years. Prior to this appointment, Monich was vice president, program management and launch as well as vice president of program management and

capital planning.

John S. Sofia was appointed vice president, engineering and product development. Sofia is being promoted from his position as AAM's vice president of quality assurance and customer satisfaction.

**Philadelphia Gear Appoints New Turnkey Project Manager**

Philadelphia Gear Corp. appointed Charles L. Zirkle as the on-site technical services project manager.

According to the company's press release, Zirkle has worked for Horsburgh & Scott Co. for the past 34



years. For the past five years, he served as field services manager.

In the new position, Zirkle will coordinate the on-site technical service product offering, working closely with the company's five regional service centers.

**Ikona Receives Order from Schlumberger**

Ikona Gear International received an order from Schlumberger Ltd. to provide two customized prototype gearboxes for use in an oil and gas well servicing application. Schlumberger requested that the exact nature of the application remain confidential.

The prototype systems are to be delivered in September and assessed by Schlumberger in both internal and field tests. A successful test program is

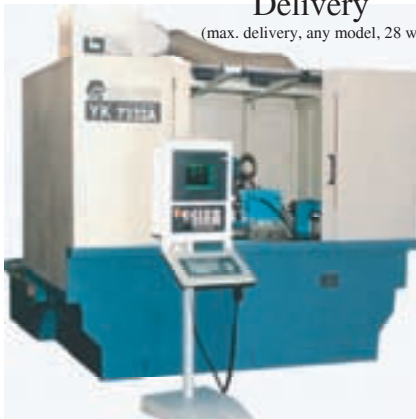


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Shaanxi Qinchuan Machinery Development Co., Ltd. has selected American Broach & Machine to offer sales, tech support, service & engineering for their world class gear grinding machines in North America, under the brand name American Gear Grinders.



expected to result in an initial order with a value of approximately \$2.5 million.

According to Ikona's press release, Schlumberger is its first customer in the oil and gas market since it formed its new Ikona Industries division in January and launched six new products at the Global Petroleum Oil Show in June.

"We are pleased to be working with the world's leading oil field service company in the development of a new technology to increase oil production," says Ikona's CEO and president Laith Nosh. "In addition to our success in the automotive sector, the oil and gas industry holds tremendous promise for Ikona as analysts project the North American market for oil and gas field machinery to be approximately \$11 billion per year."

### Applied Process' Chinese Operation Sets an Opening Date

John Keough, CEO of Applied Process, announced that AP Suzhou, located in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China, will commence commercial austempering operations in November.

According to the company's press release, interim general manager Josh Keough will report to AP's COO John Wagner. AP Suzhou will be dedicated to growing the domestic market for austempered steels and irons in China.

The 4,250-square-meter plant is located in the Weiting Town District of the SIP Industrial Park, approximately 100 km west of Shanghai. AP Suzhou will offer a full line of austempering services, including austempered steel, carbo-austempered steel, austempered gray iron, austempered ductile iron and carbide austempered ductile iron.

### Fiat and Tata Announce Joint Venture in India

Italian carmaker Fiat Group and India's Tata Motors announced they've signed an agreement for a joint venture in India to make passenger vehicles, engines and transmissions for Indian

and overseas markets. The companies also released a statement saying they've agreed to study the possibility of industrial and commercial cooperation in Latin America.

### Service Network and Worcester Polytechnic Launch Grinding Consortium

Service Network is spearheading an effort with Worcester Polytechnic Institute to form a grinding research

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- Distributors tolerate delays and shortages because your supply chain is not dependable.

Many market-leading manufacturers have discovered the real cost of supplied gearing comes into effect AFTER the supplier's invoice has been paid. The lowest-priced gear set usually comes with no "frills"! You're on your own to figure out why there might be problems... and to prove it to the supplier to get restitution.

*"My experience with Nissei has been very satisfactory. When we had a problem with a spiral bevel gear set, they responded quickly. With their help, we found that the problem component was our angle head and not the gears from Nissei. Their commitment to customer support allowed us to resume production in a timely manner."*  
— Design Engineer, a 30+ year Nissei customer

Many times a problem with a gear set has nothing to do with the gears themselves. A capable gear supplier is adept at more than just making gears. He must also understand how the gears will react to a multitude of variables in your gear application. Another key point to consider is how much control does the supplier have over the entire process? That's especially true if the heat treating is outsourced.

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center located in Worcester, MA, to launch industry consortiums.

According to SNI's press release, the consortium is being introduced as a practical applications research consortium and will focus on improving

member firms' grinding processes by studying key segments of the grinding process.

Among the features of the consortium would be an abrasive products lab and surface metrology lab. WPI's current

surface metrology lab is best known for its work on the measurement and characterization of surface textures and topography in diverse applications and for discoveries of the correlation between roughness, adhesion and friction. The lab's current work is key to abrasive process research since abrasive processes use surface topographies of the abrasive to create surfaces on the workpiece while the workpiece abrades the abrasive. The capability to examine this interaction helps harness potential improvements in the grinding process.

Service Network contributes various levels of support including use of its OEM OD and ID precision grinding machines. Saint-Gobain joined WPI and Service Network as a co-sponsor.

### New Rep Joins Clifford-Jacobs

Bob Jardine has established Jardine & Associates LLC, a manufacturer's representative sales agency, and will be representing Clifford-Jacobs Forging Co.

Jardine was formerly with Scot Forge.

His territory includes the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

### Chick Workholding Implements Consumer Design Program

Chick Workholding Solutions invited the CNC marketplace to contribute to the design of its new CNC vise. The new vise does not fall into current workholding categories. It is not a traditional single station vise originally designed for use on a manual machine nor is it a double station workholding system for CNC production applications.

The company plans to roll out a conceptual prototype of the CNC vise for the public's viewing, use and comment at IMTS. Visitors to Chick's booth will be able to test the product



### Timken is Where You Turn™ for Gear-Cutting Solutions

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in a real-world setting through the company's QwikChange Challenge. The challenge will put four participants at a time in a head-to-head race to see who can take the CNC vise through five different changeovers in the least amount of time.

According to the company's press release, Chick aspires to have the product ready in its final version, ensuring the CNC vise will not need to be redesigned later. By previewing the concept, Chick plans to field test the CNC vise.

The company launched an interactive website dedicated to the CNC vise at [www.BuildaCNCVise.com](http://www.BuildaCNCVise.com).

### **Vail Resorts Buys Wind Power to Offset its Electric Power**

Vail Resorts announced plans to buy enough wind power credits to offset the power needed for its resorts, retail stores and office buildings, making Vail the second largest corporate buyer of wind energy in the nation, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Vail officials said they plan to buy the equivalent amount of their energy needs in wind power credits from Renewable Choice Energy of Boulder, CO. Renewable Choice will then buy wind power from various producers and inject the amount of power Vail uses into the national electric grid.

The company would not estimate the program's costs but said that total energy use was about 152,000 megawatt hours a year. It also plans to create a promotional incentive plan to encourage employees and visitors to convert to wind power at home, with a free day ski pass to anyone who signs up.

Quayle Hodek, chief executive and founder of Renewable Choice Energy, says the idea of wind power credits is to displace fossil fuel generation nationally, if not quite locally. The day-to-day supply for Vail's chairlifts, lights and machinery will be generated by local suppliers, primarily by coal-fired generation.

Visitors to a Vail resort who sign up for wind power would not change utility providers but pay a \$15 monthly family fee or \$5 monthly individual fee to Renewable Choice to buy credits

for the amount of wind used by their household, which would then be fed into the national grid. Buyers would pay the same electric bill as before.

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**Renault, Nissan and GM Explore Alliance Possibilities**

General Motors, Renault and Nissan said that an exploratory discussion was held regarding the possibility of an industrial alliance among the three

companies.

Carlos Ghosn, president and CEO of Renault, SAS and Nissan Motor Co., and Rick Wagoner, chairman and CEO of GM, agreed to cooperate in an expeditious, confidential review of an

alliance between the three companies. It is expected that the review will take approximately 90 days.

**Chimera Expands Mold Production Capacity**

Chimera Co., a precision mold parts designer and manufacturer in Tokyo, Japan, plans to expand its finished mold product plants.

According to the company's press release, the output capacity for finished molds, most of which are used in the automobile and electrical equipment industries, will jump from 10-15 units a month to 20-25 units a month.

The expansion will take place at Chimera's No. 2 plant, which was acquired in 2000. Approximately 1,300 square meters of floor space will be revamped and outfitted with machine tools. The project will raise the production of molds used to make plastic products. Capital spending will total around 300 million yen (\$2.6 million), including work to upgrade machine tools at the factory.

The firm aims to boost capacity to around 40 units a month and plans to open a sales site in Kawakki this fall. Chimera targets 2.4 billion yen in total sales for 2007, up 40% from 2005.

**Kapp Hires Vice President of Sales**

Kapp Technologies hired Bill Miller as vice president of sales for North American operations, effective September 1.

Miller has been in the gear industry since 1981, when he started in service, training, applications engineering and sales of Kapp products at American Pfauter. From 1995-1999, he was manager of North American sales for M&M Precision Systems. In 1999, he formed GearHelp LLC to service gear training needs and sell Konig, Dr. Kaiser, Dragon and GearOffice products.

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## GM, BMW and DaimlerChrysler Announce \$1 Billion Hybrid Transmission Development Program

A research alliance consisting of GM, BMW and DaimlerChrysler plans to invest more than \$1 billion to develop a new hybrid transmission to compete with a related system offered by Toyota.

For the past 18 months, approximately 500 engineers at the three companies have been jointly developing the next-generation hybrid engine technology, which combines a battery-powered electric motor with a conventional gasoline combustion engine.

The dual-mode hybrid technology includes an on-board fuel optimization computer that determines when and at what speeds the two motors will be used for power and how the on-board battery will be recharged.

Development of the transmission is expected to cost about \$300 million. The rest of the investment will be devoted to integrating the new hybrid system with other vehicle components.

The hybrid engine will be available in two rear-wheel-drive configurations and a front-wheel-drive system.

## ArvinMeritor Focuses on Automated Manual Gearboxes

ArvinMeritor announced a decision to place greater emphasis on the sales and marketing of the FreedomLine automated manual transmission by ZF Friedrichshafen in Germany. Conversely, the company plans to discontinue manufacturing the Meritor manual transmissions, effective January 2007.

The company will honor current manual transmission orders and all orders received prior to September 2006, provided that they are to be delivered no later than January 2007. All Meritor manual transmissions sold and in service will continue to be supported

by the company's sales, service and aftermarket parts support teams.

"We are absolutely convinced that we have the most advanced and proven technology solution with the FreedomLine for our North American

customers," said Tom Gosnell, president of the company's commercial vehicle systems business unit in an ArvinMeritor press release. "We pledge to expand the number of motor carriers and their drivers who are delighted with

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the performance and benefits of our FreedomLine.”

Production of the FreedomLine will remain in ArvinMeritor's facility in Laurinburg, NC, and the workforce connected with the manual transmissions will be absorbed into other positions.

## Bonfiglioli Plans New Headquarters

Bonfiglioli Riduttori is building a new headquarters in Hebron, KY, and plans to open in February 2007.

The new building will cover 83,000 square feet with 13,000 square feet

dedicated to offices, balancing and warehousing. The assembly area will be divided into small and large planetary gearboxes, helical gearboxes and worm gearboxes.

According to the company's press release, Bonfiglioli is planning a distributor network with one reseller located in each state.

## Suzlon Energy Plans Worldwide Expansions

Wind energy company Suzlon Energy plans to expand capacity by 4,200 MW and is scheduled to complete the project by June 2007.

Suzlon will also open an innovation center in Denmark, focusing on concepts such as materials technology, logistics cost, management areas and technology innovations for its turbines.

The company plans to extend the capacity of its gearbox manufacturing operation in Belgium (formerly Hansen Transmissions) from the 3,300 MW at present to 4,500 by the end of the fiscal year. Suzlon's two manufacturing facilities in the U.S. and China will be operational by September 2006.

The proposed 1,500 MW wind energy project at Udipi will be operational by June 2007 and expansions in India include establishment of a forging and machining facility at Baroda and a foundry at Coimbatore.

## Paulo Products Purchases Bodycote Business

Paulo Products Co. purchased the metal treating and brazing business of Bodycote Thermal Processing of St. Louis, MO.

According to the company's press release, Paulo will transfer the processing of all work resulting from this acquisition as well as equipment to its existing facilities in St. Louis.

Paulo operates a heat treating facility offering continuous belt, batch, vacuum, induction heat treating, furnace brazing, cryogenics and black oxidizing.



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