

# IMTS Cuts the Mustard

**Boy!** The combination of Chicago style hot dogs and machinery seems to have been irresistible.

IMTS, held bi-annually here in Chicago, ended September 17. It was the third-largest IMTS ever, both in terms of registrations (115,612) and exhibit space occupied (1,370,256 square feet). Also, this year's show had more exhibiting companies (2,407) than any previous IMTS.

Many of the exhibitors came to Chicago with a certain amount of apprehension. After all, certain manufacturing industries (energy and mining, to name two) have been struggling for some time. But despite rumors to the contrary, manufacturing is alive and well, as evidenced by the steady foot traffic through the exhibit halls during most of the show.

Most of the major gear industry exhibitors told me they were happy with the show. Executives at Gleason, Star SU, Klingelnberg, Kapp-Niles, Liebherr, Mitsubishi, Koepfer America and others all told me they were pleased with the number and quality of leads they were getting from attendees.

To me, this means there is significant activity brewing in the gear industry. Gear manufacturers are preparing for future work enquiring about machine tools and upgrading their technology. And some of them were even in a buying mood. I saw more than a couple instances of machine tools with "sold" signs on them. Hopefully, this bodes well for a strong gear industry in 2017.

If you didn't make it to IMTS this year, you missed out on a lot of new technology. But don't worry. We were there for you. In addition to myself, we had four editors at the show (Randy Stott, Jack McGuinn, Matt Jaster and Alex Cannella), plus our



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

digital content manager (Kirk Sturgulewski), our *geartechnology.com* blogger and technical editor (Chuck Schultz), our art director (Dave Ropinski) and associate publisher Dave Friedman. All of them were extremely busy throughout the week, talking to the experts about how gear manufacturing is changing. This wasn't MY staff who went to the show, it was YOUR staff. Their goal is to help you learn what's going on in the industry and to give you the information you need to make gears and related products better, faster and at a lower cost.

Some of that information has already been published. The article "IMTS Measures Up," for example, appeared in our e-mail newsletter. That article covered many of the newest technologies in gear inspection that were on display at IMTS. You can read the newsletter by visiting [www.geartechnology.com/newsletter/](http://www.geartechnology.com/newsletter/). You can subscribe by visiting [www.geartechnology.com](http://www.geartechnology.com) and clicking on "Subscribe" for your free subscription at the top of any page.

We will continue to share everything that's important from the show over the next several issues. For example, in this issue, you can read Alex Cannella's article on the latest advances in spline manufacturing. Next issue, we plan to cover one of the hottest topics in gear manufacturing: gear skiving. And we'll also have a feature on the gear shop of the future.

So stay tuned. There's plenty more to come.

