



Photos courtesy of AMT.

Manufacturing for Growth

FOUR ASSOCIATIONS CHART COURSE FOR U.S. MANUFACTURING

Four leading associations of small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies recently announced that they are combining resources to host the inaugural Manufacturing for Growth (MFG) meeting, a gathering of hundreds of manufacturing leaders, March 3–6, 2011, in Chandler, Arizona. Collectively representing a cross-section of the industry, the Association for Manufacturing Technology (AMT), the American Machine Tool Distributors' Association (AMTDA), the National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) and the Precision Metalforming Association (PMA) will combine their annual meetings to pursue the common goal of building sustained U.S. economic growth by strengthening the country's manufacturing sector.

Together, the four associations comprise more than 4,000 small and medium-sized manufacturers from all 50 states that provide products for the aerospace, automotive, construction, energy, medical and many other industries in the United States and abroad. By sharing resources, the Manufacturing for Growth conference will provide an opportunity for more than 500 top manufacturing executives to exchange best practices as the industry seeks to reassert and expand its U.S. economic footprint.

In a letter to the four groups acknowledging the significance of the industry gathering, U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gary Locke wrote: "Your four trade associations are to be commended for recognizing that collaboration and cooperation among industry stakeholders are vital to the future of America's manufacturing sector."

"The MFG meeting represents a unique opportunity to collaborate with manufacturing technology providers, builders, integrators and users," AMT president Douglas Woods said. "By combining the resources of our four premier manufacturing associations, the MFG Meeting will have exceptional program content and networking opportunities."

AMTDA president and CEO Peter Borden added, "The MFG meeting represents a sea change for the industry. The collaboration involved with this meeting coincides with the shift in the industry itself towards a greater emphasis on interconnectivity—from the manufacturer to sales distribution to customer—making [it] an ideal forum for industry professionals to discuss common issues."

"To have four great associations collectively coming together to support manufacturing and promote its awareness shows the positive effects of collaborating around a common goal. This event is the first step to promote manufacturing awareness and educate our country on its importance to

industry news

America's economic infrastructure," NTMA president Dave Tilstone said.

"This new collaboration among the major industry associations represents a milestone in strengthening business relationships within the supply chain of the metalworking and forming industries," said PMA president Bill Gaskin. "By joining together for the MFG Meeting, members of these associations can develop new opportunities to work together to assure a strong manufacturing base in North America." For more information, visit www.themfgmeeting.com.

Electric Vehicle Manufacturers

CHOOSE UNIVERSAL TRANSMISSION



VMT Technologies recently announced that two electric vehicle manufacturers—Kentucky-based Vision Motor Cars and Korean-based Leo Motors—have requested the use of VMT's new transmission technology for their cars.

VMT recently unveiled its Universal Transmission, claiming it could replace many of the current transmissions—including continuously variable transmissions—and improve gas mileage. The company is selling licensing agreements to original equipment manufacturers. VMT, a technology development and licensing company, began working on its new transmission technology in 2005.

According to VMT, Universal Transmission functions as a positively engaged, infinitely variable transmission with an engaged neutral, and it eliminates the need for a clutch or torque converter. VMT Technologies CEO Richard Wilson said the Universal Transmission is particularly beneficial to the hybrid and EV market because it eliminates the need for the controller. In addition, the transmission can allow EVs to use much smaller battery configurations, resulting in cost savings for manufacturers, he added.

Vision Motor Cars, based in Williamsburg, KY, has

continued

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submitted five years' worth of purchase orders totaling \$348 million for its new line of all-electric drive delivery vans, mini-vans and sports cars. "VMT technology, coupled with our power system, will be the best EV combination in the world, increasing efficiency and range of our trucks by 30 to 50 percent," said Vision Motor Cars President Brooks Agnew.

VMT is also considering an offer from Leo Motors, whose purchase orders would total more than \$480 million. Vision Motor Cars has offered to perform final assembly to make its high-efficiency motor an integral part of the lightweight design of the Universal Transmission. "In addition to multiple business and technology review meetings in Korea for the past year, we have also met with many U.S. companies," said Mark Stoddard, VMT managing partner. "We're entertaining offers from several of them to fulfill the orders for these electric vehicle applications, as well as many other non-electric applications in our leapfrog technology."

VMT speculates that the Universal Transmission may be able to help automakers meet government CAFÉ requirements ahead of the 2017 deadline. "Our new transmission, with an engaged neutral, allows engines to run closer to their 'sweet spot' right out of the hole," Stoddard said. "According to electric vehicle experts, the potential benefits of the Universal Transmission technology are the reduction of the drain on the electric motor controllers and battery packs, and less power surges due to the engaged neutral."

VMT said it expects more automakers will show interest in licensing the Universal Transmission technology for other classes, sizes and ranges of vehicle applications. For more information, visit www.moongears.com.

ABB

Completes Acquisition of Baldor Electric

ABB Ltd. has completed its acquisition of Baldor Electric Company. The transaction, which was originally announced on November 30, 2010, was valued at \$4.2 billion, including \$1.1 billion of net debt. The acquisition of Baldor advances ABB's strategy to become a leader in the North American industrial motors business and a global leader for movement and control in industrial applications. The combination provides an even stronger growth platform from which ABB can increase its penetration of North American markets by building on Baldor's strong presence while at the same time facilitating the sale of Baldor's products globally through ABB's worldwide distribution network.