

SKF

OPENS FACILITIES IN HOUSTON, INDIA, SHANGHAI

Several new facilities have been opened by SKF so far this year; A Solution Factory opened in Houston in March, two factories were opened in India and a wind industry service center was opened in Shanghai, in April.

The 25,000-square foot Solution Factory in Houston is the first in the United States, and it joins a network of eight others worldwide. “The new facility can equip customers with value-added solutions and industry knowledge to optimize their machinery performance and maximize operating efficiencies,” says Poul Jeppesen, president and CEO of SKF USA Inc. “The facility further provides us with an unprecedented venue to advance our dialogue with customers in a working partnership to help solve their challenges.”

The Solution Factory is a “multi-million dollar long-term investment,” according to Bart Bartholomew, vice president of business integration and Solution Factories. Currently, there are 27 employees, and SKF intends to employ 50 at full capacity. The facility houses applications engineering, spindle and ball screw repair, bearing application expertise, sealing solutions, lubrication system expertise, mechanical equipment services (including mounting, alignment and balancing), remote condition monitoring and diagnostics, engineering consultancy services and operator and worker training.

“All these resources under one roof allow us to deliver customized and timely product and service packages tailored for particular operations,” Jeppesen says. “We expect that this Solution Factory will quickly become a key destination for customers striving to increase overall asset efficiency, reliability and productivity.”

The facilities in India and China support growing demand in that area of the world. One of the factories was built in the Indian city Haridwar, which will serve the two-wheeler manufacturers in the Uttarakhand state, an emerging industrial hub, and contribute to the growing vehicle aftermarket in India. The total investment amounts to about \$35 million (USD), and the factory will employ around 200 people.

The other Indian factory was opened in Ahmedabad, the largest city in the Gujarat state. Medium to large size bearings of various types will be manufactured at this site for customers in railway, wind and other heavy industry sectors. SKF invested about \$63 million into this facility, which will employ around 300 people at full capacity.

“SKF has been present in India for more than 85 years, and it is a very important market for us, both in terms of business and for the development of products,” says Tom Johnstone, president and CEO of SKF Group. “The opening of these new factories, which means that we now have five factories



The SKF Solution Factory in Houston (top) and the new factory in Haridwar, India (bottom) are two of several SKF facilities opened this year.

in India, shows our strong commitment to supporting our growth in India and Asia.”

SKF, in its commitment to reducing the carbon dioxide emissions from its factories, built the Haridwar factory according to the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) green factory recommendations, and the Ahmedabad factory was built according to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard.

The SKF Asia Pacific wind industry service center was built at the SKF Solution Factory in Shanghai. It is the third SKF facility of its kind, tailored to the wind industry, joining centers in Hamburg, Germany and Houston.

This center was established to meet market demand for maintenance technology in the wind industry and to provide one-stop solutions in the market of wind farm operation and maintenance in the Asia Pacific region, particularly in China. According to Vartan Vartanian, president SKF Service Division, “The establishment of the wind industry service center in Shanghai demonstrates SKF’s strong commitment to provide extensive technical support and services to the wind industry and the wind farm operation and maintenance market in Asia Pacific.”

Rexroth, Dana

FORM JOINT VENTURE

Bosch Rexroth AG and Dana Holding Corporation announced that they expect to form a 50-50 joint venture to co-develop and manufacture advanced drive transmissions for the off-highway market. The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect.

The planned joint-venture company is expected to operate in Arco, Italy. It will manufacture, engineer and market hydro-mechanical variable power split transmission systems (HVT) for the global off-highway markets. The transmission systems will focus on meeting customer needs for improved fuel economy, productivity, emissions and maneuverability. Both Bosch Rexroth and Dana will contribute staff, intellectual property and capital to the joint-venture company.

We are excited about the opportunities that this combination of two respected global off-highway transmission manufacturers presents," says George Constand, chief technical officer of Dana. "Together, Dana and Bosch Rexroth offer a broad range of complementary skill sets, which will enable the joint venture to deliver a unique array of advanced transmission solutions to the off-highway marketplace."

The planned joint venture will capitalize on Dana's experience in off-highway transmission engineering and manufacturing, as well as Bosch Rexroth's experience in hydraulics and systems. The two companies are currently involved in a joint project to develop power split transmissions for construction machines.

"The smart interaction of hydraulics and mechanics will be the driving factor for future innovation in drive transmissions," says Reiner Leipold-Buettner, executive vice president of engineering and manufacturing for Bosch Rexroth. "Only those with the best knowledge in both fields will master the growing market demands. Dana and Bosch Rexroth ideally combine both fields."

Sauer-Danfoss

APPOINTS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CMO

Marc Weston was appointed executive vice president and chief marketing officer of Sauer-Danfoss, effective April 5. He will be based out of the Ames, IA location and is replacing Tim Hanson upon his retirement from the position.

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GLOBAL SPEC



Marc Weston, Sauer-Danfoss.

Weston previously served as vice president, strategic planning with The Timken Company.

Weston brings more than 18 years of experience in a range of key leadership positions in marketing, operations and strategic management within The Timken Company in the United States, Europe and Asia. He also served as vice president automotive Asia and president Japan/Korea in Tokyo.

“I am pleased to welcome Marc to Sauer-Danfoss,” says Sven Ruder, Sauer-Danfoss president and CEO. “In his new role, Marc will be a member of the Sauer-Danfoss leadership team and will have overall responsibility for the Sauer-Danfoss sales and marketing organization, as well as quality and advanced systems engineering. Some of Marc’s main tasks will be to orchestrate an aligned sales approach to customers across the company and ensure heightened focus on achieving our quality goals.”

Emerson

AWARDED EDUCATION FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING PARTNER

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Education Foundation presented the 2010 Outstanding Partner Award to Emerson at the foundation’s Board of Directors Dinner in St. Louis in April.

Robert M. Cox, Jr., Emerson senior vice president, was on hand to receive the award for Emerson. The annual financial support from Emerson to the SME Education Foundation assisted Gateway Academies at Hazelwood North Middle School, Florissant, St. Louis; Thomas Worthington High School, Worthington OH; and Strom Thurmond High School and Career Center, Johnson, SC. Emerson funding has also supported the Science, Technology and Engineering Preview Summer (STEPS) Camp for seventh and eighth grade students near Emerson facilities.

“Emerson is an extraordinary organization. They have been a supporter of our Foundation and our youth programs for a very long time, and they are truly outstanding partners,” says Bart A. Aslin, director of the SME Education Foundation.

“Their consistently generous funding of more than \$600,000 since 2001 has truly allowed us to enrich the lives of young people and setting them on a career path offering innovative tech-based education. We’re grateful for their support.”

Kollmorgen

ESTABLISHES AFTERMARKET SERVICE AGREEMENT



Kollmorgen drives are exclusively being remanufactured by Flight Systems Industrial Products for the North American electric fork lift truck market, in accordance with an Aftermarket Service Agreement between the two companies.

Flight Systems Industrial Products (FSIP), a provider of remanufacturing services for electric vehicle control systems, and Kollmorgen have signed an Aftermarket Service Agreement. Under terms of the agreement, FSIP will be the exclusive remanufacturer of Kollmorgen drives and controls for the North American electric fork lift truck market.

Kollmorgen is recognized under the company’s previous branding of Danaher Motion, and is a supplier of drives and control to OEMs of electric fork lift trucks. “Partnering with FSIP helps us better support and bring additional value to our OEM customers’ aftermarket businesses in North America,” says Brian Lubin, business unit director, Kollmorgen Electric Vehicle Systems. “These customers will have ready access to a lower-cost, high-quality remanufactured drive and control solution through FSIP, and directly supported by Kollmorgen through revision control and testing. Additionally, the agreement will extend the availability of legacy Kollmorgen drive and control products.”

According to Barry Bowman, president of FSIP, “This agreement aligns with our strategic focus of nurturing

alliances with industry-leading manufacturers of electric vehicle components and systems, and doing so allows us to provide our customers with the most recent upgrades to the control hardware and software. As the intellectual property of today's electric vehicle controls become more complex, these alliances enable us to truly remanufacture the control and not just 'repair it' or 'swap it out,' as may be the case with other repair facilities. It also provides the market with an alternative to 'new,' while maintaining the integrity of the control as a remanufactured product."

future vehicles.

During the ceremony, Jean-Christophe Quémard, PSA executive vice president and purchasing manager, commented, "[NSK's] quality record is exceptional since its first part supplied: less than 1 ppm for six consecutive years. Whether in development or production, NSK performance is remarkable and recognized as a technical benchmark."

NSK

WINS QUALITY AWARD FROM PSA GROUP

PSA Peugeot Citroen, the second largest automotive manufacturer in Europe, awarded NSK for outstanding performance in quality at the group's suppliers' day event, which brought together 300 of its leading suppliers.

The award is the result of a strong relationship developed over the years between PSA and NSK, and it recognizes NSK's efforts in achieving the high quality standards that PSA sets. In this relationship, NSK attributes its performance to a close coordination with the manufacturing location in Peterlee, England, for wheel hub units and in Saitama, Japan for tapered roller bearings for transmission applications.

NSK European Automotive Business Unit started working with PSA in 1998. The first major project came in 2000, with mass production deliveries in 2003. NSK supplies bearings for chassis and drivetrains for various PSA car models and light commercial vehicles. NSK is also involved in developing

BEI Merges Divisions



Industrial rotary encoders and accessories from the BEI Industrial Encoders division are now available under the BEI Sensors brand name, along with the product portfolios of BEI Duncan Electronics and BEI Ideaco.

BEI Industrial Encoders, BEI Duncan Electronics and BEI Ideaco have combined to form BEI Sensors. The merger brings a broad product portfolio and a combined 100 years of experience in engineering development to better serve motion control solutions in the industrial, military/aerospace and transportation markets. BEI Sensors is headquartered in Goleta, CA.

The BEI Sensors product line includes rotary and linear position sensors, potentiometers, Hall Effect sensors, absolute and incremental encoders, panel controls, electronic interface modules and various accessories. More information is available at www.beisensors.com.



Habasit

APPOINTS PRESIDENT OF GEARMOTOR DIVISION

George Rizza joins Habasit America as president of the Gearmotor Division. Rizza previously served as vice president of sales at Nord Gear for 12 years. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology from Bradley University, and he is fluent in Italian. Rizza will be responsible for all Rossi Gearmotor product lines in the form of assembly, sales, marketing, customer service and engineering in North America, Mexico and Brazil, as well as acting liaison with Rossi Modena Italy.

Habasit produces transmission belts, conveyors and gearmotors. Habasit America is a subsidiary of The Habasit Group, Reinach, Switzerland.



George Rizza

educators and the industry, PMMI has identified 24 skill areas required for mechatronics professionals working in the packaging industry. PMMI and its partners are in the process of outlining the competencies required for each skill area.

"These competencies form the backbone of the test development," Ferrante says. "For this initial test, 'Introduction to Industrial Electricity,' we identified and validated the competencies which are published on our website and developed the assessment to test for skills and knowledge in these areas. We hope that curriculum developers around the country will adopt these standards to provide the consistent and rigorous training that the packaging industry needs from its young and growing class of inventors."

PMMI is a trade association of companies that manufacture packaging, processing and related converting machinery, components, containers and materials in the United States. The association worked with the U.S. Department of Labor to develop a packaging oriented mechatronics competency model. To earn the certificate, candidates need to achieve a passing score on the online assessment test. For the complete list of competencies covered in PMMI U's "Introduction to Industrial Electricity," visit www.pmmi.org/pmmiu.

"This certificate will enable students to better prepare for a career in packaging as well as establish professional, nationally recognized credentials," Ferrante says. "It will also enable the existing workforce to identify areas of opportunity to enhance knowledge and skills and prepare for additional job responsibilities. For managers, this certificate will demonstrate independent validation of a technician's knowledge and skills as well as establish documentable hiring and promotion criteria."

PMMI

LAUNCHES MECHATRONICS CERTIFICATE TEST

The "Introduction to Industrial Electricity" mechatronics certificate test—the first in a series—has been launched by PMMI in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Mechatronics Advisory Council, partner schools and industry professionals.

"Mechatronics brings a range of engineering disciplines together," says Maria Ferrante, PMMI's vice president of education and workforce development. "PMMI developed this mechatronics certificate program to set a standard for the industry and to encourage schools to provide the training students need to get started on this complex and exciting career path."

The certificate program is based on the mechatronics standards PMMI has developed. In partnership with



Maria Ferrante

Bison Gear

SIGNS NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

Following a successful two-year period of regional authorized distribution, gearmotor manufacturer Bison Gear and Engineering Corp. has entered into a North American distribution agreement with Kaman Industrial Technologies, a distributor of power transmission and motion control products. Kaman will distribute Bison's full product offering of gearmotors through Kaman's 200 customer service centers in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

“In our 50th anniversary year, Bison is especially pleased to have entered into this expanded distribution partnership with Kaman,” says Todd Lucich, vice president of sales for Bison Gear and Engineering. “Kaman’s reputation as a solution provider for its customers aligns well with Bison’s consultative approach to engaging end users from the design to installation phase of the product development lifecycle to ensure that the product we provide meets our promise of engineering excellence.”

The addition of the Bison lines is designed to enhance Kaman’s ability to serve the electrical needs of customers looking for solutions that require reduced dimensions in a powerful, compact package.

“Bison’s technological leadership is recognized throughout the industry and aligns well with Kaman’s goal of providing high technology product solutions to our customers,” says David Mayer, vice president of marketing for Kaman Industrial Technologies. “With Bison’s reputation for innovative engineering and Kaman’s focus on application-based selling solutions, this partnership has the potential to provide unique solutions to the challenges faced by our customers.”

CSIA

ANNOUNCES
RECERTIFIED MEMBERS,
NEW ASSOCIATE AND
PARTNER MEMBERS

The Control System Integrators Association (CSIA) recently recertified Automation Horizons, of Des Plaines, IL, and Integrity Integration Resources, of Plano, TX.

CSIA welcomed several new associate members: Cimation-Houston, of Houston; PACIV, of Indianapolis; PCI, LLC, of Detroit; ProLucid Technologies, Inc., of Mississauga, Ontario; and Shafer, Kline and Warren, Inc., of North Kansas City, MO.

Newly joined partner members are Electrochem Solutions, Inc., of Clarence, NY; QSI Corporation, of Salt Lake City; and VIPA USA, Inc., of Alpharetta, GA.

In order to become a CSIA Certified Member, member companies must pass an intensive audit process that includes stringent performance standards in nine categories: general management, project management, quality management, technical management, human resources management and marketing, business development and sales management.

Certified Members are re-audited every three years and recertified if they meet the required performance standards.

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CORRECTION

There was an inaccuracy in the April Power Transmission Engineering story, “Bogus Bearings Beat Price and Lead Time—But at What Cost?”—regarding the economic scope and impact of counterfeit bearings. The figures reported—gleaned from the Bearing Specialists Association (BSA) website—refer to economic losses caused by counterfeiting in general, and are not specific to the bearing industry alone, which the story reported. Apologies to our readers and to the BSA for misstating the information.

—Jack Mc Guinn, Senior Editor