

## Bishop-Wisecarver

INCREASES IN-HOUSE PRODUCTION,  
EXPANDS IN CHINA



By adding a Mägerle MGC-L-550.35.45 grinder to the Bishop-Wisecarver machine shop, the company expanded in-house production capability. The machine is one of the longest in North America, measuring 5.5 meters in the x-axis and weighing 50 tons. It can process lengths up to 4.5 meters, so it is currently used for Bishop-Wisecarver's UtiliTrak product line, which produces steel and aluminum channels in 3.6 meter lengths.

The Mägerle grinder features an articulating head, so the machine can grind both inside running surfaces in one setup.

The grinding wheel is reshaped periodically or continuously by a hidden dresser in the head, which avoids interruptions in the process that can occur with a fixed table-mounted dresser. The machine demonstrates high accuracy. "I'm very pleased with the quality of parts produced with this process," says Kelly Walden, Bishop-Wisecarver plant superintendent. "Consistency from batch to batch has also greatly improved, with variation within a couple of ten-thousandths of an inch."

Bishop-Wisecarver has expanded service and support in China with an office catering to the growing customer base in the country. The Shanghai office is led by Jennifer Ye, who has worked in import, export and domestic sales of industrial products. Business relationships with China-based distributors and the regional branch bring local service and inventory to the region while lowering the timing and costs of shipping. The office is located at Room 1107, No. 728, Xin Hua Road, Shanghai 200052, China, phone: (86) 21-52580936, e-mail [Jennifery@bwc.com](mailto:Jennifery@bwc.com).

"The China market is key to our global strategy," says Ray Harrington, vice president of business development for Bishop-Wisecarver. "We see abundant opportunity to advance Bishop-Wisecarver's presence in Asia, and the opening of the Shanghai office reinforces our commitment to current and potential partners and customers in the region. Local sales support and technical expertise significantly improve the customer experience with better service, improved communication and reduced sales cycles."

## PT/MC Market Outlook Data

### REPORTS MIXED RESULTS

The Power Transmission Distributors Association (PTDA) released the April 2008 month-end trend data for distributors and manufacturers of power transmission/motion control (PT/MC) products, which reflected varying results for U.S. and Canadian distributors.

In the United States, sales of PT/MC products were up 6.4 percent for April in comparison to the previous month. Distributors' sales increased 11.5 percent from April 2007 while accounts receivable collection days dropped 4.3 percent since March 2008, and U.S. distributors' confidence index was

at 5.8, on a 10-point scale, for the fifth consecutive month.

PT/MC sales in Canada improved by 8.6 percent from March 2008 over its 6.6 percent the previous year. Compared to March 2008, accounts receivable collection days fell 6.9 percent. Canadian distributors' confidence level was at 5.7 for the third month in a row.

U.S. manufacturers' sales fell 2.7 percent from March, while Canadian sales experienced a 0.4 percent decline from the previous month. Compared to 2007, sales in April 2008 were up 2.1 percent but were down 2 percent in Canada. The April 2008 orders were down 3.6 percent from the month before while confidence levels fell by 0.4 and 0.2 in the United States and Canada, respectively.

The overall decline in sales is reflected by product-by-product sales from March to April 2008 by manufacturers in both countries. U.S. manufacturers' sales improved in three

categories: gear products; clutches and brakes; and standard industrial motors. Sales declined in variable speed drives, positioning systems/linear motion products, unmounted bearings, shaft couplings, mounted bearings, mechanical drive systems and other power transmission products. Canadian manufacturers experienced negligible losses in April due to positive sales gains in more than half of products manufactured.

## Hansen

OPENS ENVIRONMENTAL-CERTIFIED PLANT



**Ivan Brems, CEO Hansen Transmission International, and Stefan Lammens, managing director of Hansen Transmission's Lommel wind energy business unit, receive the environmental certificate from Daniël Frickel, marketing and training manager for Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Belgium.**

After investing around 180 million euros, the expanded Hansen Transmissions Lommel, Belgium factory was officially opened by Flemish Minister-President Kris Peeters. He also helped assemble Hansen's 20,000th wind turbine gearbox and released the ISO 14001 certificate for the plant's environment management policy, which includes strategies for energy, product storage, air emission and waste.

The Lommel facility was expanded from 45,000 to 110,000 square meters and from 193 to over 800 employees, and it has a 6,000-megawatt capacity for manufacturing multi-megawatt wind turbine gearboxes. "Thanks to the

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**Above: Flemish Minister-President Kris Peeters officially opens the Hansen Transmissions expanded factory in Lommel. Below: Peeters helps assemble Hansen's 20,000th wind turbine gearbox along with CEO Ivan Brems.**



unique location of the fully integrated production plant in Lommel and a team of more than 800 highly qualified and experienced employees, we are capable of meeting the various needs and quality demands of this fast-growing industry," says Ivan Brems, CEO of Hansen Transmissions. "Today, we supply four of the five largest turbine constructors and together, our clients represent over 60 percent of the market for gearbox-driven wind turbines."

Hansen devotes most of its gearbox production to wind turbine gearboxes. The celebrated 20,000th gearbox will be supplied to Hansen's largest wind energy client, Vestas Nacelles A/S.

The environmental certification audit was conducted by the international certification organization Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance. The final audit report noted a well organized environment management system in terms of care and performance in addition to devoted staff and management, according to Hansen's press release. "Hansen wants to play an exemplary role in environmental policy," says Stefan Lammens, managing director of Hansen's wind energy business unit. "Through an environment management system, structural attention is paid to the environment in all our operations. After a thorough environmental aspect analysis we have defined concrete objectives in an action plan. We aim to minimize the impact on the environment and to permanently improve our environmental performance. Being granted the ISO 14001 certificate is the pinnacle of all the efforts made by Hansen up to now."

Hansen's yearlong action plan goals include reducing overall energy consumption, keeping inventory of raw materials, monitoring and minimizing chemical agent use, generating more separate waste streams and providing a complete waste management system.

## PCB Piezotronics

### FORMS AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE DIVISION

An Aerospace and Defense division of PCB Piezotronics will develop products and programs specifically for aerospace, civil and military aviation, defense, homeland security, nuclear and test and measurement industries, according to the company's press release. Ronald J. Livecchi was appointed senior director of the division.

The Aerospace and Defense division's product offerings

include sensors and instrumentation for health and usage monitoring systems, helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, combustion monitoring pressure sensors, high-temperature engine vibration monitoring sensors and aircraft hydraulic pressure sensors. Some typical testing applications addressed are vibration and fatigue, qualification, aircraft and engine ground, blast pressure and hydraulic system pressure measurements, structural dynamics and engine vibration monitoring.

Livecchi, as senior director, is in charge of worldwide strategic target market development, technical sales, marketing, applications engineering, program management and customer

service relative to the aerospace and defense sector. In the aerospace industry for 30 years, most recently Livecchi served as vice president and general manager for Mokon. He has held leadership positions at Jabil Circuit, Parker Hannifin Aerospace, Moog and Lord Corporation. Livecchi received a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Cornell University.



**Ronald J. Livecchi**

PCB Piezotronics also introduced an automotive sensors division, which posted a 20 percent first-quarter sales growth. The division operates from a facility in Novi, Michigan specializing in the global automotive test market—including vehicle NVH and dynamics, vehicle and component performance and durability, legislative, safety and powertrain testing applications.

## Regal Beloit

### ACQUIRES CHINESE MOTOR COMPANIES

Joyce Court Holding Ltd. and Grand Delight Investments Ltd., shareholders of Wuxi Hwada Motor Company and Wuxi New Hwada Motor Company, have been acquired by Regal Beloit Corporation.

Collectively known as Hwada, the company designs and manufactures integral IEC and NEMA electric motors used in industrial applications such as compressor, pump, paper and steel processing and power plants. Half of Hwada's product sales are to China's industrial markets. The company will be reported as part of the Regal Beloit's electrical sector, according to the company's press release. Hwada, purchased for \$27 million, is estimated to bring \$75 to \$80 million in sales to Regal Beloit.

"This is another significant, strategic-focused expansion of our industrial business in high-growth markets," says Henry W. Knueppel, chairman and CEO of Regal Beloit. "The acquisition represents our first wholly owned industrial motor facility in China. Hwada is currently one of the top industrial motor companies in China. It enjoys a reputation of product excellence and rapid growth and comes with an excellent management team."

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## Alpha Gear Drives Inc.

### CHANGES NAME



Wittenstein is the official name for alpha gear drives Inc. as of July. The German-bred company launched in North America in 1992 and created the subsidiaries Wittenstein aerospace and simulation and Wittenstein Arena Corporations. These companies moved to a centralized facility in Bartlett, IL in 2005, consolidating all sales, development and production departments in the same location with the purpose of synergizing research and communication efforts, according to the company's press release. Wittenstein founder Manfred Wittenstein was recently elected president of the German Engineering Federation (VDMA), after serving as vice president since 2004.

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## RBC Bearings

### ACQUIRES MOTION CONTROL MANUFACTURER

The assets of Precision Industrial Components LLC (PIC Design) have been acquired by RBC Bearings Incorporated for \$6.6 million and assumption of certain liabilities. RBC Bearings, headquartered in Oxford, Connecticut, manufactures precision plain, roller and ball bearings for industrial, defense and aerospace industries. PIC Design, in Middlebury, Connecticut, manufactures and supplies tight-tolerance, precision mechanical components used in the motion control industry. The estimated sales for PIC Design from 2007 is \$10 million, and the company has more than 20,000 customers.

"The addition of PIC brings us a very unique franchise offering a wide array of products to the general industrial marketplace," says Dr. Michael J. Hartnett, the chairman and CEO of RBC Bearings. "As the pioneer and leader in the field of precision industrial component manufacturing and design, PIC provides us with additional technology, expertise and complementary products that will help strengthen the value we deliver to our customers. This acquisition is in line with our stated strategy and goal of continually expanding our base, adding value to our clients and increasing our value to the marketplace."

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## Sporian

### DEVELOPING HARSH ENVIRONMENT SENSORS FOR U.S. NAVY

An operational sensor suite for monitoring a jet engine's combustion chamber environment is being developed by Sporian per a contract with the U.S. Navy. The sensors must survive temperatures up to 1,500°C, pressure exceeding 750 psi, exposure to corrosive and oxidizing gases and other extremely harsh conditions.

"Our goal is to develop an operational sensor that improves the Navy's ability to perform condition-based maintenance and prognostic health management," says Dr. Kevin Harsh, principal investigator for Sporian. "Simply put, this could mean improved visibility of needed maintenance activity while reducing unnecessary maintenance efforts. The bottom line is to provide lower cost and increased operational availability."

The results of Sporian's development efforts will be monitored by the Naval Air Systems Command at Patuxent River, and the Rolls-Royce Corporation in Indianapolis will consult with Sporian. Tom Bronsett, instrumentation development engineer for Rolls-Royce, says, "In the later stages of the development effort, Rolls-Royce will subject the Sporian sensors to a rigorous testing regime, exposing the sensors to turbine engine hot section pressures and temperatures."