

The Perfect Balance



When we put together the lineup of articles for each issue, we give a lot of thought to balance. Because our readers come from diverse backgrounds and industries, we have to work hard to please everyone. We need technical articles to keep our design engineering audience informed and educated about the state of the art. Our case studies bring the technology down to a more practical level, demonstrating how the best technology is used in a given situation, often from a maintenance or reliability standpoint.

In addition, the world of mechanical power transmission and motion control contains a wide variety of subjects, so we make a concerted effort to cover as many different types of component as possible each issue.

This issue, I'm pleased to say, we have something for everyone, starting with our focus on motion control. Our special product feature presents some of the key motion control technologies that were on display at MDA, IANA and IMTS earlier this month.

We have a trio of case studies that cover unique applications in motors, belt drives and fluid power for the auto racing, elevator and furnace industries, respectively. Thanks to Maxon Motors, ContiTech North America and Bosch Rexroth for sharing these stories with us.

In our "Ask the Expert" column this month, Norm Parker of General Motors explains why new automotive axles require a break-in period. As usual, Norm gives you the technical details that help explain exactly what's going on in the mechanism.

Our three technical articles this issue have a decidedly gear-oriented focus. Dr. Michel Octrue presents an overview of worm gear standards and current best practices for worm gear ratings calculations. Frank Krull explains why and how gearbox test rigs play an important role in the design and development process for wind turbine gearboxes. Finally, a team from the Technical University of Munich has written a study on the load capacity and efficiency of grease-lubricated worm gears.

For those of you involved in management, marketing, analysis or business development, I encourage you to read Brian Langenberg's Global Industrial Outlook column. There you'll find insight about which industrial markets are moving in which direction.

Finally, there are our regular departments, Product News, Industry News and Power Play. The news sections keep you up to date on the latest technology, as well as the trends and happenings related to companies involved in the industry. And you can always count on Power Play for a lighter look at power transmission and motion control.

We're happy with the balance this issue, but it's not ourselves we have to please. It's you, the reader. So don't take my word for it. Read through the issue and pick out the articles of interest to you. Let us know how we're doing, and if you'd like to see some other topics covered in upcoming issues—or better, yet—if you'd like to contribute something yourself, please send an e-mail to wrs@powertransmission.com.

