

Vestas

EXPANDS IN COLORADO



A Vestas blade factory and a nacelle assembly factory are set to take root in Brighton, CO, the wind technology company announced in August. The nacelle plant manufactures wind turbine housings including gearboxes, generators and transformers and will be the first of such Vestas facilities in the United States. The blade factory will complement an existing one in nearby Windsor, CO.

“I am delighted that we have found the location for our new blade factory, and we look forward to beginning operation in our first manufacturing cluster in the USA,” says Ole Borup Jakobsen, president of Vestas Blades A/S. “I am confident we will maintain our good relationships with the authorities in Brighton and Weld County as we continue to develop this new Vestas site.”

Brighton was chosen for its central location, convenient access to rail services and highway infrastructure along with the proximity to Windsor. A technology and production engineering office will also be created at the Brighton location in order to equip the factories with quality and continuous improvement competencies, according to a press release.

“We are extremely pleased to be building Vestas’ largest nacelle assembly factory to date. Denver and the surrounding areas give us direct access to a large, qualified workforce, and this was one of the primary reasons for choosing Brighton,” says Soren Husted, president of Vestas Nacelles A/S. “Our new factory will be designed according to the most efficient lean manufacturing principles, and we expect Brighton to become the center for Vestas Nacelles’ activities in the USA.”

The Brighton facilities are scheduled to be operational by July 2010. The blade-manufacturing facility represents a \$180 million investment, yielding 1,800 blades a year and 650 new jobs. The nacelle assembly plant is an investment of \$110 million, creating 1,400 nacelles a year and 700 new jobs. According to a press release from the Colorado governor’s office, Vestas also intends to build the world’s largest tower-

manufacturing site in Colorado, although the location has not yet been announced.

“On behalf of the people of Colorado, I am grateful that Vestas has chosen to once again invest in our state,” says Bill Ritter, Colorado’s governor. “This is a tremendous boon for all of Colorado, not just Brighton. By bringing more than 1,350 additional jobs here, Vestas is cementing its standing as one of Colorado’s pioneering partners in the new energy economy.

“I look forward to continuing the relationship for years to come. My administration has worked closely with Vestas to make the Brighton project a reality. This only adds momentum to our efforts to diversify our economy and grow these modern-energy industries of the future.”



Hydraulic Drive Systems Specialist

ACQUIRED BY REXROTH

A contract was signed in July for Bosch Rexroth’s acquisition of Hägglunds Drives AB, an international supplier of complete hydraulic drive systems based in Mellansel, Sweden. The sale is subject to approval by authorities.

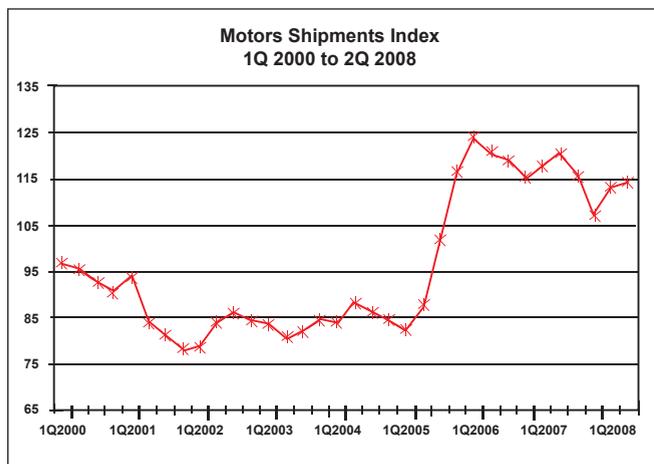
Hägglunds Drives develops, manufactures, markets and services entire drive system solutions for applications that require high torque and variable speed. The company’s drive systems are employed by industries such as mining, material

handling, marine and offshore, recycling, sugar, pulp and paper. Hägglunds Drives' products are also used in ethanol-producing machines.

Hägglunds Drives posted sales of 200 million euros in 2007, employing about 900 people. The company has U.S. production sites in San Antonio and Columbus, Ohio in addition to offices in more than 20 countries.

"The acquisition of Hägglunds Drives expands our industrial hydraulics portfolio, and by this we gain new potential in growing markets, such as renewable energies, and mining and materials handling," says Dr. Albert Hieronimus, chairman of the executive board of Bosch Rexroth AG.

Second Quarter Domestic Motor Shipments Increased



NEMA's Motors Shipments Index registered a modest gain in the second quarter of 2008 with domestic shipments up 1.1 percent; however, on a year-over-year basis the index fell 5.1 percent and has been on the decline for six of the last seven quarters, according to NEMA.

The demand for integral horsepower motors was high for the second quarter and has only posted one quarter of declining shipments in the past four years, NEMA says. Fractional horsepower motors have been weak in comparison.

Materials Research Society

NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Todd Osman has been named new executive director for the Materials Research Society (MRS), succeeding John Balance after 25 years in the position.

"We are very excited about Todd and the leadership role he will play in growing MRS," says MRS president Cynthia Volkert. "MRS has a culture and tradition of innovation and technical excellence, and Todd has the vision, knowledge and drive to move MRS forward. The combination will be extremely powerful and beneficial to Materials Science Engineering around the world."



Dr. Todd Osman

Osman possesses technical and leadership experience in both the industrial and non-profit sectors. He was a key player in the creation of the Pennsylvania NanoMaterials Commercialization Center, and served as a founding board member. He was also the technical director for the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS), where he developed initiatives in energy, environmental impact and sustainability, according to an MRS press release.

Osman has also worked as a researcher and technical manager for United States Steel Corp., researching and developing coated-steel products, one of which was granted a U.S. patent.

In speaking of the MRS, Osman says, "The scientific community, and society as a whole, face many critical challenges. But there is not a consensus on a sustainable energy portfolio, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education initiatives need greater participation. (MRS's) focused advocacy efforts provide a strong foundation as we continue to promote scientific and engineering responses to these challenges."

Osman received B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in materials science engineering from Case Western Reserve University, and has authored numerous articles on commercial and social impact nanomaterials, materials for nuclear power, computational materials science and engineering, product development and mechanical metallurgy.

Aerotech

OPENS SISTER COMPANY IN JAPAN

Pittsburgh-based Aerotech, Inc., a supplier of precision motion control products and systems, opened a full-service subsidiary company in Tokyo this spring, the company announced. The new company—Aerotech KK—will be managed by Tadashi Imai, and will provide application engineering, sales and customer service for the Japan market, as well as for other Asian customers and sales partners. The company also has similar operations in Germany and the U.K.



Aerotech's new Tokyo facility.

Industrial Revenue Bond ISSUED TO VAN ZEELAND MFG.

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle announced a \$1,211,250 Industrial Revenue Bond allocation to Van Zeeland Manufacturing, Inc. of Little Chute, Wisconsin. The company manufactures power transmission products that include sprockets, gears and pulleys. The bond will help Van Zeeland construct and equip a planned 25,000-square-foot facility, expanding production capacity by 20 percent. The company's \$4.1 million investment will create eight new jobs.

"One of the top priorities of my administration is to help move industries, companies and communities forward and ensure there are good, family-supporting jobs for our citizens," Doyle says. "I am pleased to help Van Zeeland Manufacturing,

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Inc. with an expansion project that brings jobs and investment to the area.”

An Industrial Revenue Bond is a bond issued by local governments that is free of federal taxes. The proceeds of the bond are loaned to a new or expanding business for development projects, and the interest rate is generally below the going prime rate.

Sumitomo Machinery Corp. of America

PROMOTES NATIONAL SALES MANAGER, OPENS PLANT IN MEXICO



Matthew G. Roberson

Matthew G. Roberson has been promoted to national sales manager for Sumitomo Machinery Corporation of America (SMA). He will report to the CEO/President at the Chesapeake, VA headquarters. Roberson previously served as the regional vice president of sales in the Northeast USA, and he has over 20 years of experience in the power transmission industry.

“Matt possesses a passion for our business, loyalty to our company and employees and a leadership style that brings out commitment and enthusiasm by those fortunate to work directly with him,” says Ronald J. Smith, CEO/President of SMA.

In other news from SMA, a new facility was opened on August 1 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The Guadalajara location is the third SMA plant in Mexico, including facilities in Monterrey and Mexico City. As the second largest city in Mexico, next to Mexico City, Guadalajara has a large industrial base with many local OEMs.

“The expansion into Guadalajara reflects part of SMA’s long-term growth strategy for its Latin American operations,” says Jim Solomon, vice president and CFO of SMA. “The establishment of this new facility allows Sumitomo to better serve its customers in the Guadalajara region of Mexico. We look forward to the opportunity to expand our relationship with existing customers in the area while increasing our market potential in the area.”

Woodward Governor

ACQUIRES MPC PRODUCTS CORPORATION

MPC Products Corporation of Skokie, IL and Woodward Governor Company of Fort Collins, CO have reached a stock purchase agreement for Woodward to acquire MPC for a value near \$383 million. MPC, which has been led by Joseph and Vincent Roberti for over 45 years, manufactures electro-mechanical motion control systems, mostly for aerospace applications. With net sales of \$195 million for its last fiscal year, MPC will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Woodward upon completion of the sale.

“We anticipate that, together, Woodward and MPC will deliver substantial benefits through an improved focus on aerospace energy control solutions. MPC’s actuation, motor, sensor and electronic capabilities complement our fluid energy and motion control technologies and will improve our systems’ offerings,” says Tom Gendron, chairman and CEO of Woodward. “We believe our global footprint will enhance MPC’s business to achieve stronger growth going forward.”

Woodward plans to form the basis of a fourth business segment with MPC, Airframe Systems, due to the nature of MPC’s main product lines, which include electric motors and sensors, analog and digital control electronics, rotary and linear actuation systems and flight deck and fly-by-wire systems. Companies like Boeing, Bombardier, Raytheon and Lockheed Martin use MPC’s products in commercial and military aerospace programs for applications such as critical flight-control, radar and electro-optical drives.

“Woodward is a very strong, active company,” says Joan Roberti, a member of the MPC Board of Directors. “We feel the combination of MPC and Woodward will give both companies an opportunity for improved growth and expansion, and with Woodward’s support, MPC can further improve its leadership role in the industry.”

Got News?

**Send your news items to
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