

Bishop-Wisecarver

AWARDED PATENT
FOR INTEGRAL GUIDE WHEELS



The U.S. Patent and Trademark office granted Bishop-Wisecarver a second patent for their DualVee guide wheel product line. The integral guide wheels, the latest addition to the DualVee line, which was patented in 1967, include a one-piece design with the stud or bushing integrated into the wheel, and they are made in carbon steel or polymer varieties. A machined inner bearing race is included in the larger-size models, and the smaller sizes feature a swaged retaining technology to fasten the wheel to the stud. The integral wheels have a lower profile and larger diameter fastener, supplying more rigidity and mounting torque capacity, according to the company's press release.

"We are very pleased to have been awarded a second patent for our core technology," says Pamela Kan, Bishop-Wisecarver president. "The acceptance of this patent clearly defines Bishop-Wisecarver's history of innovation, and further reinforces our position as the pioneer and industry leader of guide wheel technology. We are committed to our mission of providing motion without limits."

Visit www.bwc.com/products/dual-vee.html for more information on DualVee integral wheels.

brand offering truck-mounted telescopic cranes, crane service bodies and accessories, and Ramsey Winch, which provides various industrial and consumer winches. Ramsey Industries sells products to end-user markets including non-residential construction, oil and gas, towing and recovery, municipal, mining and energy/utilities. Eskridge will continue to be based out of Olathe, Kansas as a designer, manufacturer and marketer of planetary gear drives, auger drives and multiple-disc brakes for sale to distributors and OEMs, according to Eskridge's press release. The companies' different product lines are expected to complement each other well.

"Our vision is to become a global leader in all of the markets we serve by providing innovative solutions to our customers' requirements with high-quality, on-time and cost-effective products," says Bruce Barron, CEO of Ramsey Industries. "The acquisition of Eskridge brings us one step closer to the accomplishment of that goal. This combination will increase the offering of products to our valued customers around the globe and will also allow us to offer them full package solutions to their growing needs."

NEMA

INDEXES EXPRESS FLUCTUATIONS

The Primary Industrial Controls Index experienced healthy growth in 2007, rising 8.3 percent in the fourth quarter, but the index appears as though it will decline in 2008. For the entire calendar year, the index grew 6.2 percent, proving to be the most successful year of growth since 2004 and reached the highest level since 1997. The National Electrical Manufacturers Association's (NEMA) Primary Industrial Controls and Adjustable Speed Drives Index, measuring broader demand for industrial controls, rose 6.7 percent over the previous quarter and 11.4 percent on a year-over-year basis. For the entire year 2007, the index was up 7.9 percent.

Over the past few months, the U.S. economy experienced stunted growth as consumer spending was at its slowest in years, residential investment declined considerably, inventories shrunk and the balance of trade was weak, even with the declining dollar. GDP growth surged in the third quarter of 2007, only to relatively freeze for the last quarter. Business investment was brighter, growing steadily due to spending on nonresidential structures. These factors indicate that prospects for the manufacturing sector are dimming and industrial control shipments are likely to weaken in 2008.

NEMA's Motors Shipments Index showed similar tendencies in 2007, shrinking 7.3 percent quarter-to-quarter during the final three-month period of the year. The index slipped almost 7 percent on a year-over-year basis, imitating

Ramsey Industries

ACQUIRES ESKRIDGE

Ramsey Industries Inc. adds Eskridge Inc. as the company's third subsidiary in addition to Auto Crane, a

similar activity from four of the last five quarters. After showing double-digit growth the past two consecutive years, the index declined 3.5 percent over the full calendar year. These discouraging numbers are the result of a sharp fall in fractional horsepower motor shipments linked to the U.S. housing market slump; however, recent integral horsepower motor demand has been sturdy during the recent dips. On a more upbeat note, the industrial sector is anticipated to experience positive growth in the near future, due to export demand, business investment and inventory replenishment.

Altra

APPOINTS NEIL ENGLISH AS EUROPEAN DIRECTOR OF SALES

As director of European sales for Altra Industrial Motion, Neil English will be responsible for overall sales within Europe for Altra's range of global brands, including Warner Electric, Matrix International, Wichita Clutch, Stieber, Twiflex, Bibby Transmissions and Huco Dynatork.

Prior to this appointment, English was most recently the sales and marketing director for Holroyd, a machine tool manufacturer. He worked at the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board, where he increased client and customer engagements by 150 percent, Altra's press release says. English also held a senior sales role with Sumitomo, a Japanese power transmission company.

"This is an exciting time to be joining Altra," English says. "The company is in a massive growth phase, as emphasized by the company's organic revenue global growth of 9.9 percent for the third quarter of 2007. This growth is being driven by its management team's continuous focus on new products and target markets all aided by Altra's unique business system, which focuses on improvements in quality, delivery and cost to drive customer satisfaction. Altra's business system also provides the tools to achieve specific business objectives with the involvement of all associates."



Neil English

Rotork

OBTAINS REMOTE CONTROL SWEDEN, DRALLIM VALVE TESTING PRODUCT

Rotork increased its Fluid Systems division with the acquisition of Remote Control Sweden, which manufactures pneumatic valve actuators and associated control systems. Remote Control Sweden was under the ownership of Per Larsson and has been an international trader since 1961. Rotork expects the acquisition to offer a range of supplemental products and industry opportunities, and RCS merchandise will continue using their current sales channels and international network for marketing purposes, according to Rotork's press release.

"RCS complements Rotork's existing medium- to heavy-duty range of pneumatic and hydraulic actuators and brings with it a reputation for quality and service, strengthening our reputation as the actuator company of choice. The acquisition increases our ability to provide a single source for these products and enhances our presence in existing and new market areas," says Alex Busby, managing director of Rotork Fluid Systems.

Rotork has also purchased the Drallim SVM (smart valve monitoring) partial stroke valve testing product from Drallim Industries Limited. The product is designed to help test hydraulically and pneumatically actuated block valves, which are typically used for emergency shutdown, blow down, high-integrity pressure protection and sub-sea isolation. The SVM technology allows users to evaluate if a valve will close as expected and how all the final components in the valve loop are working. The performance data can be used to calculate any issues in the partial stroke valve operation to help avoid potential failures or machine shutdowns, according to Rotork's press release.

SVM technology specialist Richard Harvey is transferring from Drallim as part of the sales agreement, and he will be the SVM product's business development manager for Rotork.

"The purchase of this innovative technology provides us with a platform to further develop our products for safety-critical applications," Busby says.

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Rexroth

APPOINTS PLC AND HMI PRODUCT MANAGER



Ted Thayer

Ted Thayer has been named PLC and HMI manager for Bosch Rexroth Corporation; he will be responsible for PLC and HMI product releases, maintaining and developing customer and partner relationships and executing PLC training initiatives for Rexroth's Electric Drives and Controls technology group.

Before working for Bosch Rexroth, Thayer directed call center operations, supplied technical support for industrial automations products and instructed several training classes for the Technical Assistance Center at Mitsubishi Electric Automation. He cultivated a product training program and contributed to sales efforts with Chrysler, U.S. Postal Service, Corning and Applied Materials. He has held several engineering positions, including applications engineer, associate controls engineer and senior development engineer. Thayer earned a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University in electrical engineering technology and a master of business administration degree from the University of Phoenix, and he graduated from DeviceNet University. He is also certified as a project management professional, Profibus engineer and support center supervisor.

increased competitiveness goals. Three AMT representative offices will report to him, including the Shanghai Technology and Service Center, the Technical Center and offices in Mexico and the Chennai Technology and Service Centre opening this year in India.

Traver worked for the General Electric Company for 13 years, initially in turbine business operations before taking a management position in the electrical distribution and control business and eventually moving to Europe to help GE's power control business.

He spent time as the vice president of marketing for ABTCO, a privately-held maker of hardboard, fiber cement and wood chip products, before he headed to the Harbour Group, where he worked in management consulting. Traver also served as the senior vice president and COO of C-Tech Industries, a company that manufactures high-pressure cleaning equipment.

Traver has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Pennsylvania State University and a master's degree in management engineering from the University of Bridgeport.

"Jeff has the ideal background to continue the innovative programs AMT has initiated under Steve Thiry's guidance," says AMT president John B. Byrd III. "His varied background in manufacturing management and consulting will enable AMT to continue to offer new programs and services to its members."

Bison

WELCOMES TODD LUCICH AS VP OF SALES

As the new vice president of sales at Bison Gear and Engineering Corp., Todd Lucich brings with him 27 years of power transmission industry experience. He held several sales and product management roles with Rockwell Automation before he became vice president of distribution and national accounts for Rexnord Industries. Lucich earned a bachelor's degree from Western Oregon University, and he has two patents for engineering innovation.

"We are excited to have Todd on board at Bison. We believe his experience will grow our sales team to new directions in the future," says Martin Swarbrick, Bison CEO.

AMT

WELCOMES NEW VICE PRESIDENT-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Jeffery H. Traver brings more than 22 years of manufacturing operations management experience to AMT when he replaces Steven Thiry after a transitional period. Traver will be in charge of the department accountable for marketing and business development assistance to members in both the domestic and international spheres, helping members maintain the drive for market penetration and

Hansen

ELECTS GERD BERSCH AS CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT

Global gearbox designer, manufacturer and wind turbine gearbox market supplier Hansen Transmissions International N.V. has appointed Gerd Bersch as the corporate director of strategic procurement. Bersch will help institute supply networks for the worldwide wind energy business. Bersch possesses previous supply chain management experience, some of which included gearbox production at companies like Schottel GmbH, Flender AG, Koenig & Bauer AG, ABB Kraftwerk AG and Volkswagen AG.

"Gerd Bersch is a valuable new member of the Hansen team. Establishing efficient supply networks in the shortest possible time frame will enable us to continue to grow our output quickly and to seize the exciting opportunities we are presented with. We welcome him to Hansen Transmissions," says Hansen CEO Ivan Brems.

alpha and Wittenstein

OPENS SALES OFFICE IN CANADA

alpha and Wittenstein, supplier of motion control components and systems, launched the North American Global Center of Excellence in Ontario. In the near future, the company intends to open other North American sales offices similar to this one, in addition to various pre-existing U.S. offices around the country. The contact information for the new office is as follows:

For more information:

alpha gear drives, Inc.
427 Dundas St. E.
Waterdown, ON LOR 2H1
Canada
Phone: (905) 690-7086
Fax: (905) 690-7084

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MIDWEST GEAR & TOOL, INC.
15700 Common Rd.
Roseville, MI 48066 midwestgear@sbcglobal.net

CONTACT:
CRAIG D. ROSS
(586) 779-1300
FAX (586) 779-6790