

## Centa

### MOVES INTO LARGER FACILITY



In light of significant sales growth over the past few years, Centa Corporation moved into a facility more than three times the size of the former plant. The building is 23,000 square feet of office, warehouse and manufacturing and assembly space. The larger facility will provide the space necessary for Centa's forecasted growth, manufacturing flexible couplings and shafting for power transmission systems in the marine and industrial markets.

"The growth in demand for Centa's products over the last three years, and the forecast for further growth in marine, oil/gas and windpower generation markets made this move necessary," says Bob Lennon, director of sales and marketing. "The new facility gives us the capacity for additional staff and added inventory to better serve our growing customer base. The in-house manufacturing capability adds to our local manufacturing initiative and further lessens our dependence on deliveries from our parent company in Germany while lowering our exposure to global currency fluctuations."

significantly more flexible," says Heimo Ebner, NKE's commercial managing director.

The headquarters sit on a 35,000-square-meter lot in the industrial park, which supports NKE's long-term expansion plans. Currently, 180 people are employed at the facility and NKE intends to increase its workforce to 230 people in the next three to five years. In 2007, the company had planned a fourth extension of its former site in Steyr-Gleink, but management decided this would limit its ambitious growth goals. "Eventually the soft facts made us decide for Steyr," Ebner says. "70 percent of our employees come from Steyr and the brand NKE is closely connected with Steyr."

Another sign NKE is weathering the global recession successfully is the July opening of its first sales office in China. NKE intends for the office to improve service to OEM customers and establish a nationwide distribution network. Hansen Mao, with several years experience in the bearing industry, is heading the office as chief representative.

China stands as the fourth largest international market for NKE, but the company expects it to jump to the second largest market this year. "The sales office in Shanghai enables us to act faster in the Chinese market as well as better attend to our customers technically and commercially," Ebner says. "Customer proximity is the cornerstone of our success. With the new representative office, we have now 15 sales offices in 12 countries."



Hansen Mao is heading NKE's first sales office in China.

## NKE

### EXPANDS AUSTRIAN HEADQUARTERS, ADDS SALES OFFICE IN SHANGHAI

Bearing manufacturer NKE Austria GmbH moved into its new headquarters in the Stadtgut Steyr industrial park in June. The company invested over fifteen million euro in the 10,000-square-meter facility, with 3,000 square meters of office space, a 6,000-square-meter production hall and 1,300-square-meter automatic high rack warehouse.

The move improves NKE's manufacturing capacities to include small-lot production and more efficient logistics. "With the new works, we can double our capacity and are



NKE Austria's new headquarters in the Stadtgut Steyr industrial park spans 10,000 square meters.

## CST

### APPOINTS PRESIDENT



Eric Pilaud

Eric Pilaud was appointed president and CEO of Custom Sensors and Technologies (CST) effective July 1. He previously was in charge of strategy, customers, innovation and technology for Schneider Electric.

Pilaud began his career as a university professor, researcher and consultant in the IT sector. He began work for Schneider Electric subsidiary SES in 1986. He

was chosen in 1991 to head SF Gandy in France, and from 1995–1998, he served as director of Westinghouse Systems and then the automation and control division, both in the U.K. He worked his way up to executive vice president of the strategy, customers and technology division and the services and products business unit in 2006.

Hal Grant was serving as interim CEO between March and June this year after Chuck Treadway left the company following a three-year tenure as president and CEO.

“Despite the current challenging economic environment, Custom Sensors and Technologies has the ability to grab huge opportunities,” Pilaud says. “In a world where intelligent and communicating sensors play an increasing critical role in every application, we will invest in technologies and customer intimacy to create a reference in our industry.”

## ASTM

### PUBLISHES STANDARD FOR HYBRID ROLLER BEARINGS

Increasing use of silicon nitride rollers in recent years has led to the development of ASTM F2094/F2094M, Specification for Silicon Nitride Bearing Balls. It was developed by ASTM Subcommittee F34.01, which is under the jurisdiction of Committee F34 on Rolling Element Bearings.

Examples of where hybrid roller bearings are found include high-speed machine tool spindles and high-pressure turbopumps that move liquid hydrogen in a space shuttle.

End users of bearings, bearing manufacturers and roller manufacturers will use the standard to procure finished bearings to ensure they're made with sufficient material. Bearing companies can use the new standard to acquire finished silicon nitride rollers from the manufacturers, who will use the standard to ensure that unfinished roller blanks meet the material capability they need.

ASTM F2730/F2730M complements ASTM F2094/F2094M, Specification for Silicon Nitride Bearing Balls, according to William Mandler, general manager of Enceratec Inc. and task group chairman for the group responsible for developing the standard. “ASTM F2730, like ASTM F2094, provides a specification for the material used to make the roller—three levels of capability are included, so the material can be specified for the severity of the intended application,” Mandler says. “The specification also provides dimensional specifications for form and surface condition of the finished roller.”

## Sumitomo

### PROMOTES VP, ENGINEERING DIRECTOR

Matthew Roberson was promoted to vice president of sales at Sumitomo Machinery Corporation of America (SMA) in June, and in March, Dr. Arthur S. Pantelides was promoted to Director of Engineering to oversee the engineering, design and research and development groups.

Roberson has a bachelor's degree in business management from Hiram College and a Masters of Business Administration from Ashland University. He has more than 20 years of experience in the power transmission industry with positions in field service, sales, sales management and channel management.

Roberson started with SMA in August 2006 as regional sales manager in Cleveland. He worked his way up to national sales manager in June 2008 where he led the U.S. sales force, customer service, marketing communications, aftermarket sales and distribution channel management divisions.

In his acceptance speech, Roberson said, “Like many of you, I am convinced when we emerge from this economic crisis,



Matthew Roberson



**Dr. Arthur S. Pantelides**

the lessons we learn today and the processes we develop in these challenging times will make us a more efficient, more effective and more customer driven organization than we ever imagined. I accept the challenges and responsibilities of this new role and promise you I will not let you down.”

Pantelides has over 15 years of international manufacturing experience in the heavy

industrial, automotive and consumer-related gear markets. He has a doctorate and master’s degree in engineering management from George Washington University and a master’s in mechanical engineering from Boston University.

Pantelides’ recent accomplishments include standardizing the R&D process on a global scale and integrating regional facility engineers under centralized control at SMA’s Virginia headquarters.

Ron Smith, CEO of SMA, says, “Arthur possesses a passion for our business, loyalty to our company and employees and a leadership style that brings out commitment and enthusiasm in those fortunate to work directly with him.”

## Executive Director, Board Members

NAMED TO CSIA

At the annual Control System Integrators Association’s (CSIA) Executive Conference, Robert Lowe was appointed executive director while Joseph Martin, Jeff Miller and Piercarlo (PC) Romano were elected as board members.

Lowe replaces Norm O’Leary upon his retirement. In his new position, Lowe’s responsibilities include overseeing CSIA programs, meetings, certification and audits; developing and maintaining key relationships with CSIA members, partner executives, partner program managers and affiliate associations; representing the organization at affiliate and partner trade shows; and helping the CSIA executive council and committees achieve their goals.

Lowe shares the executive director position with Lynda J. Patterson, president of CSIA. She is responsible for managing the business and administrative functions, including

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Previously, Lowe served as vice president of Loman Control Systems, Inc., a founding member of CSIA, which he co-founded and co-owned for 17 years. For eight years, he served on the CSIA Best Practices and Benchmarks Committee and was involved in designing the CSIA certification audit.

"I'm grateful to have been given the opportunity to lead this vibrant and exciting organization," Lowe says. "Norm has left big shoes to fill, but I'm up to the challenge and committed to providing member companies with the resources and support they need to be the industry's best."

Martin was elected chair of the CSIA Membership Committee, and he is president of Martin Control Systems, Inc., of Dublin, OH. Miller is chair of CSIA's Best Practices and Benchmarks Committee, and he is director of automation services at Interstates Control Systems, Inc., of Sioux Center, IA. Romano is chair of CSIA's Statistics Committee and president of Avid Solutions of Winston-Salem, NC.

The 16th annual CSIA Executive Conference, held in Naples FL, also took time to recognize Mark Moriarty of Rockwell Automation as CSIA Partner of the Year, and Schneider Electric, of Knightsdale, NC, was named Company of the Year. The late Nels Tyring, formerly of TVC Systems, was honored with the Charlie Bergman Award for his commitment to leadership and promoting the control system integration industry.

## Power Up!

If you have a background in gears, bearings, motors, belts, couplings, sensors or actuators, we'd like to talk to you. Power Play, the back page feature in *PTE*, is all about your industry. If you've got a funny anecdote, an interesting observation or perhaps a limerick on motion control, feel free to send it our way. This column is dedicated to the stories too radical to make the cut in industry or product news. We need story ideas, and we're confident you can provide them.



The rules are quite simple: submit a story idea about the power transmission industry, make it entertaining as well as informative, and become a *PTE* magazine editor-at-large today (salary not included). Submit your award-winning material to:

[publisher@powertransmission.com](mailto:publisher@powertransmission.com)

## NEMA Index

### INDICATES FUTURE GROWTH

The Electroindustry Business Confidence Index (EBCI) for future North American business conditions rose for the fourth month in a row in June. It went up three points, to 68.2, which is the highest level since August 2005. This is an indication that electroindustry executives foresee some improvement in the business environment over the next six months.

EBCI measures the business confidence of the electroindustry in Asia, Europe, North America and Latin America. It is published by NEMA, the Association for Electrical and Medical Imaging Equipment Manufacturers, and is based on the results of a monthly survey by senior managers of NEMA member companies, which represent over 80 percent of the electroindustry.

The future forecast comes on the heels of the current EBCI that declined 6.6 points to 41.3, its second decline in the past six months.