

Timken

WINS \$26 MILLION
WIND CONTRACT WITH GOLDWIND

The Timken Company has received a contract worth \$26 million to supply wind turbine products and services to China's Xinjiang Goldwind Science & Technology Company. In 2009, Goldwind received new wind power capacity orders for about 2,722 megawatts, accounting for approximately 19.7 percent of the wind generation added in China last year. Goldwind's contract with Timken will support more than 1,500 megawatts of new wind power capacity, with a broad scope that reflects Timken's long-term commitment to develop wind energy technology. It will contribute to the company's expansion in the industry, with Timken providing engineering support, advanced bearings that include the new Timken UltraWind tapered roller bearings and condition-monitoring systems and services for Goldwind's current 1.5-megawatt and 2.5-megawatt platforms. The companies also will collaborate on future wind-turbine developments.

"The collaboration between our companies brings together two leaders developing advanced technologies for efficient, green power generation," says Leong Fang, president of

Timken China. "Combining Timken's century of experience with Goldwind's leading innovation in large-scale wind turbines, we are prepared to serve China's needs for renewable energy, and to promote global development as well."

Christopher Coughlin, president of Timken Process Industries, adds, "The opportunity to support Goldwind's leadership on these platforms plays to Timken's strength: engineering sustainable systems for large turbines, from a range of proprietary materials to a breadth of power transmission products and services for the extended life of the equipment."

Coughlin noted the companies have agreed to collaborate further on development programs, including using Timken's advanced engineering design to reduce cycle times for new platforms and incorporating the company's "life cycle" service approach to contribute to sustainable performance and uptime of Goldwind's projects around the world. "We've established wind power manufacturing and service capabilities on three continents, which is important as Goldwind looks to grow globally," Coughlin says.



Bison Gear

ACQUIRES VON WEISE OF CANADA

The brushless DC electric motor business of Von Weise of Canada Company was acquired by Bison Gear and Engineering Corp. The product line includes low voltage (12–24 volt) BLDC motors ranging from 80 to 225 watts with integral multifunction speed controls.

"With increased requirements for greater energy efficiency, compact size and overall value, we see brushless motor applications and the market growing significantly for our customers and Bison," says Martin Swarbrick, Bison Gear CEO. "This is a perfect complement to our own new Autonomotor sensorless brushless product line, and it aligns with our growth strategy, balancing internal product development with product and technology acquisition."

The Von Weise motors were originally developed for the mobile HVAC market and will be incorporated into Bison's gearmotor product line for industrial and commercial applications.

"We have relocated the production of these new motors to our St. Charles, Illinois facility where we anticipate the synergy with our gearmotor products will lead to increased employment opportunities," says Ron Bullock, Bison Gear chairman. "This expansion of our brushless DC motor manufacturing is another significant new development for



Bison in our 50th anniversary year.”

According to John Morehead, Bison’s vice president, strategic planning and marketing, “We look forward to continuing to serve the mobile HVAC market for these products, in addition to the industrial pumps and compressors, valve actuators, medical device and business equipment markets for which they have been designed.”

Beckhoff

ESTABLISHES U.K. SUBSIDIARY

Hayes Control Systems has been acquired by Beckhoff Automation in order to expand and intensify Beckhoff’s growth in the British market. Hayes was renamed Beckhoff Automation Ltd.

Beckhoff has been represented exclusively by Hayes Control Systems in the U.K. industrial market since 1994. Stephen Hayes, the founder of Hayes Control Systems, was named managing director of the branch.



Stephen Hayes

In addition, the 13-member staff is being retained in its entirety.

“Great Britain and Ireland are strategically important markets for Beckhoff, as numerous international companies have their headquarters and make global decisions here,” says Kai Ristau, international sales manager at Beckhoff Automation. “Therefore, it is naturally important for us to

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Hayes comments, “Based on the good business development of Hayes Control Systems in recent years, we see added growth potential by expanding our sales in Great Britain and Ireland. Our marketing strategy is to concentrate on areas in which we can offer our customers decisive benefits with our technological innovations.”

Papers

INVITED FOR ROLLING
ELEMENT BEARINGS SYMPOSIUM



The 2011 ASTM International Symposium on Roller Element Bearings is accepting papers. The symposium is sponsored by the ASTM International Committee F34 on Rolling Element Bearings; it is held in conjunction with the April 2011 standards developments meetings of the committee, April 13–15, 2011, at the Marriott Anaheim in Anaheim, CA.

The symposium provides an international forum for information exchange on recent achievements in bearing technology. It will begin with a roundtable session discussing the testing methods and specifications of ASTM Committee F34, followed by a series of papers presented by leading experts. A Bearing Technology Exhibit will be held and consists of a series of booths displaying different products, the latest bearing advances, manufacturing capabilities, materials, products that influence bearings and more.

Attendees include bearing manufacturers, bearing users, bearing parts manufacturers, lubricant suppliers, customers and consultants.

Interested presenters or authors must submit a 250–300

word abstract online (www.astm.org/F34symp511.htm) by August 31, 2010. Accepted papers will be established by October 31. Symposium presenters are required to submit their papers to the Journal of ASTM International (JAI), unless officially exempted by the symposium co-chairs. JAI is an online, peer-reviewed journal for the international scientific and engineering community. For more information, visit www.astm.org/F34symp511.htm, or Hannah Sparks, at hsparks@astm.org.

Robotic Sales

CLIMB IN 2010

North American based robotics companies saw orders jump 40 percent in units in the first half of 2010, according to new figures released by Robotic Industries Association (RIA), the industry’s trade group. A total of 6,316 robots valued at \$411.4 million were ordered by North American companies through June, a rise of 40 percent in units and 48 percent in dollars over the same period in 2009. When orders to companies outside of North America are included, the increases are even larger, up 54 percent in units and 62 percent in dollars.

“In North America, the biggest gains came in orders by non-automotive companies, where units rose 51 percent,” says Jeffrey A. Burnstein, President of RIA. “This is a very positive sign for our industry as it continues to expand into a wide-range of industries such as semiconductor, electronics & photonics, food & beverage, plastics & rubber, consumer goods, and life sciences. Each of these market segments posted substantial gains in the first half of 2010, while automotive orders also grew 30 percent.”

Burnstein noted that comparisons to 2009 look especially strong since last year’s numbers were down significantly due to the recession. “We still have a long way to go before the industry is back to pre-recession sales levels, but I’m very encouraged that we’re headed in the right direction,” Burnstein adds.

Among leading robot applications, arc welding showed a 52 percent gain in units, followed very closely by material handling, up 51 percent. “Material handling continues to be the largest application area for robots, so this big jump in the first half of the year is excellent news,” says Burnstein.

Burnstein also noted that material handling robot sales will likely get a further boost when RIA colocates its Automate

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2011 trade show (formerly International Robots, Vision & Motion Control Show), with ProMat, a leading trade show for the material handling and logistics industries sponsored by the Material Handling Industry of America. The events take place March 21–24, 2011 at McCormick Place in Chicago.

“There’s growing interest in robotics from the warehousing & distribution industries, which are among the major audience segments at ProMat,” Burnstein said. “There are mobile as well as stationary robot applications for these industries, and we’re also seeing robot arms put on mobile bases. We see major growth opportunities here for our members which makes this colocation very exciting.”

RIA estimates that some 198,000 robots are now at work in U.S. factories, placing the United States second to Japan in overall robot use. More than one million robots are now being used worldwide.

Vacon China

WELCOMES
 MANAGING DIRECTOR

Pertti Rajamäki has been appointed managing director of Vacon Suzhou Drives, effective September 2010. Rajamäki currently serves as regional general manager of Vacon’s sales in the Asia-Pacific region. Timo Harri is currently the managing director of Vacon China, and he is set to return to the parent company in Finland in fall 2010.



Pertti Rajamäki

“During the past few years, Vacon’s sales and marketing organization in Asia-Pacific has significantly increased Vacon’s revenues in the region,” Rajamäki says. “We live in exciting times in China, and I look forward to continuing the work my predecessors have started. Especially, opening the new factory in Suzhou is one of the most important tasks in near future.”

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