

Made in the USA, Sourced in China



If you read only one article this issue, it should be Norm Parker's article on the Chinese bearing manufacturing industry. Parker is an engineer with General Motors, a true industry insider who has become a regular contributor to *Power Transmission Engineering*.

In his article, "Made in China: A GM Engineer's First-Hand Perspective on the Chinese Roller Bearing Industry," Parker gives us a personal account of how Chinese bearing manufacturing has grown and changed, and why — no matter what our nationalities, patriotisms and prejudices, it's here to stay.

Along the way, he dispels some myths and opens our eyes to just how global the industry has become. More importantly, as an engineer who is responsible for sourcing bearings, he explains why not all manufacturers are created equal — Chinese or otherwise — and he also explains the basics of what goes into the costs of a bearing. And no matter where you buy your bearings, those cost drivers are the same. Understanding why some bearings are cheaper than others will make you a better buyer.

So read the article, which begins on page 40, because asking some of the questions Parker raises will help you identify the best suppliers for *your* products.

Another thing that will help you identify the best suppliers is simply knowing who they are. We can help with that, and we intend to — not just for bearings, but for all types of mechanical power transmission and motion control products. In our *next* issue, we'll produce our annual printed buyers guide.

As many of you already know, our online buyers guide is a terrific resource for finding potential suppliers of mechanical power transmission and motion control products. More than 500 suppliers are listed, including manufacturers of gears, bearings, motors, clutches, couplings, brakes, belt drives and more. You can contact any of these suppliers quickly and easily by visiting www.powertransmission.com.

Our December issue brings that information right into your hands in a hard-copy that serves as a handy reference throughout the year. Whether you use the online version or the printed version, we've done our best to ensure that the listings are as up-to-date and accurate as possible. After all, helping engineers source components is a big part of what we do here, so we have our editors verify each listing before it's published.

If you're a supplier of mechanical power transmission components and you'd like to be included in both the online buyers guide and the printed buyers guide, getting listed is free. All you have to do is visit www.powertransmission.com/getlisted.php and fill out the form to tell us a little bit about your company.

As always, we're interested in your feedback. If you have any suggestions for ways we can help engineers and other specifiers and buyers of components better understand the technology or identify potential suppliers, we'd love to hear from you. We welcome your submissions and are interested in hearing your news. Send ideas for articles, letters to the editor, random thoughts, hare-brained ideas and whatever else you'd like to get off your chest or share with the industry. You can always e-mail me at wrs@powertransmission.com.

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