

ZF Builds New Tech Center, Finalizes Joint Venture with Meritor

ZF Friedrichshafen AG, a leading global manufacturer of driveline, steering and axle systems, has established a new 152,000 sq. ft. corporate engineering technical center on a 10-acre site in Northville Township, a western suburb of Detroit, MI. The new center further strengthens the company's commitment to the North American market and will support its line of automotive products.

The new center, with 95,000 sq. ft. of office space and 57,000 sq. ft. of prototype building and testing space, will be home to more than 200 technical, engineering and sales personnel. It will provide state-of-the-art technical capabilities that will support the development and testing of new products as well as adaptation of existing ZF products for the North American markets. The new center will be ready for occupancy by July, 2000.

ZF has also announced a joint venture with Meritor Automotive Inc., forming ZF Meritor LLC. The new company, based in Laurinburg, NC, will produce technologically advanced medium- and heavy-duty transmission components and systems for original equipment manufacturers and the aftermarket in the United States, Canada and Mexico. ZF Meritor LLC will begin operations immediately.

According to Meritor chairman and CEO, Larry Yost, "Meritor's joint venture with ZF supports our long term business strategy to provide our customers with new and technologically advanced products. This partnership also supports Meritor's aim to lead in the markets we serve, increase our customer base and achieve our global growth goals."

Richard Martello will serve as president of ZF Meritor LLC. He was previously general manager of Meritor's transmission, clutch and driveline business.

Philadelphia Gear Signs Record Contract

Philadelphia Gear Corporation has reached an agreement with FastShip, Inc. to supply sophisticated transmission equipment for the company's high-speed transatlantic fleet. The \$35 million order

is the largest in Philadelphia Gear's 100-year history and will bring more than 100 jobs to the area.

Philadelphia Gear will supply 20 gearboxes—five in each of FastShip's initial four vessels—plus one spare gearbox as well as additional parts and a 10-year service and maintenance package. These components will help generate power for these vessels that is 2.5 times that of a jumbo jet.

"Our contract with FastShip further establishes us as a global competitor in the supply of high-tech power transmission equipment," said Gerry Rooney, president of Philadelphia Gear Corp. "Our aggressive investment in new technology and equipment, as well as our efficiency guarantee, positions us perfectly to thoroughly serve FastShip's cutting-edge transmission needs."

The contract means 100 jobs for Philadelphia Gear and its vendors, including securing or adding 70 full-time jobs over the next two years at Philadelphia Gear's King of Prussia, PA, facility.

Bison Names Kopp Continuous Improvement Manager



Marty Kopp

Marty Kopp has been named continuous improvement manager at Bison Gear and Engineering, St. Charles, IL. This is a new position. Kopp, who joined Bison in 1996, was most recently TQM facilitator for the manufacturer of fractional horsepower gearmotors, motors and reducers for the global market. According to George Thomas, vice president of operations, "A commitment to improve our products and processes is inherent in maintaining Bison leadership."

Kopp will now be responsible for total quality management, coordinating Bison's program for ISO-9000 certification, overall management of all Bison service and repair operations, and joint programming with the Bison Engineering department on the assembly area auditing process, to work towards error-free, zero-defect performance. Prior to joining Bison, Kopp was at Argonne National Laboratories.

New Venture Gear Expands

New Venture Gear, a joint venture between DaimlerChrysler AG and General Motors Corp., will expand its East Syracuse, NY, New Process Gear plant by 100,000 square feet, creating 300 new jobs. This 20% increase in capacity will allow the company to increase its production of 4-wheel drive transfer cases to about 500,000 per year.

Sport utility and pickup truck vehicles continue to sell at record volumes," said New Venture president and CEO Fred Hubacker. "This plant expansion gives New Process Gear the ability to meet our commitment to our customers for transfer case production."

Inductoheat Promotes Director of Engineering



Randy Minnick

Inductoheat, Inc., Mass Heating Division in Ray Township, MI, has promoted Randy Minnick to the position of director of engineering. His previous position was engineering manager. Minnick has been with Inductoheat for six years and holds a BSME from Saginaw Valley State University.

Mitsubishi Appoints New Senior VP of Sales and Marketing



Thomas D. Poyser

Mitsubishi Machine Tools has appointed Thomas D. Poyser senior vice president of sales and marketing for North America. Prior to coming to Mitsubishi, Poyser held both general and sales management positions at Westinghouse Electric Corp. and Hurco Companies, Inc. He has a BSEE from Purdue University and an MBA from Indiana University. Poyser assumes the duties formerly held by the recently retired Donald Chabot.

Mitsubishi Opens New Headquarters and Hob Recoating Facility

Mitsubishi Machine Tools has moved its headquarters from the company's former location in Itasca, Illinois, to a larger facility in neighboring Addison. The new

address, 1250 Greenbriar Drive, will house both corporate offices and a production area, and cover 38,250 sq. ft.—14,000 sq. ft. larger than the Itasca site. The new facility will house a showroom for Mitsubishi products, as well as a one-of-a-kind facility dedicated to the restriping, resharping and recoating of hobs used in high precision gear production, representative of Mitsubishi's large investment in cutting technology.

The strategic placement of a recoating facility in the Midwest is expected to increase the sales of gear cutting tools by providing an economical alternative to shipping hobs overseas for recoating.

ASME and SME Mutually Cease Merger Exploration

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME International) and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) have mutually ceased exploration of a possible merger.

ASME International President Robert E. Nickell and SME President Cecil W. Schneider, in jointly making this announcement, observed that the investigation phase was conducted in an extremely positive and professional manner and involved many volunteer and staff members from both organizations.

These two societies will continue as separate organizations, and where possible, will continue to conduct joint activities and look for additional opportunities to work together in the future.

Balzers Announces New Tech Development Center

Balzers Tool Coating, Inc., a leader in thin-film tool and precision component coatings, has opened a new technical development center in Amherst, NY, adjacent to Balzers' existing coating center. The new center was built to develop new coatings and evaluate cutting-edge technologies that will solve a variety of customer needs.

"Our customers are the true beneficiaries of this expansion," stated Balzers president Peter Bjorkman. "Not only are we increasing physically, but we are expanding our advanced technology

problem solving, our customer service and our ability to interface with larger corporate customers."

The new technical center will house an expanding staff of engineers, including a number of rotating resident scientists from Balzers facilities around the world and from the company headquarters in Liechtenstein. The facility also incorporates the Balzers Knowledge

Management Center, which provides resources and technologies for Balzers technicians worldwide to help them service their customers' specific coating requirements.

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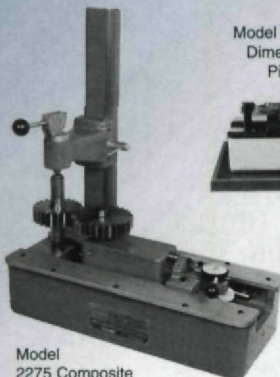
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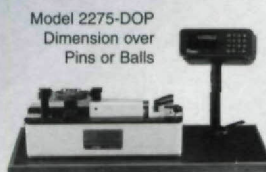
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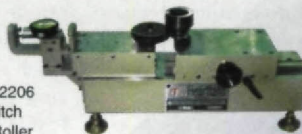
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