

Mitsubishi Starts Marketing its Gear Cutting Products Itself in North America



Thomas P. Kelly

Mitsubishi International Corp. started marketing its gear cutting machines and tools directly to North American customers from its new gear cutting technology center.

Mitsubishi's gear cutting machines and tooling were previously marketed through a dealer network, which reported to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of America, located in Addison, IL.

Thomas P. Kelly was named president of the new center, located in Wixom, MI, a Detroit suburb.

Kelly said the center was created because of gear cutting's high levels of

technical specialization and the technology's rapidly changing nature and requirements. He added the center was located in Wixom because it would be close to automotive OEM powertrain plants and those of Tier 1 suppliers.

According to Kelly, the center provides a showroom for Mitsubishi's gear cutting machines and tooling and provides greater capabilities in:

- process development,
- prototype manufacturing,
- machine demonstrations,
- runoffs,
- proposal preparation,
- technical presentations,
- operator training, and
- maintenance training.

Mitsubishi designs, develops and manufactures gear cutting machines and systems and special gear cutting tooling.

AMT Elects New Directors and Officers

The Association For Manufacturing Technology (AMT) elected its 2000-2001 directors and officers at its 2000 annual meeting, held in San Francisco, CA.

Kim W. Beck was elected by the board to be its chairman. Beck is president of Automatic Feed Co., located in Napoleon, OH. He replaced Stanley A. Woleben as chairman. Woleben is president of Armstrong-Blum Manufacturing Co. of Mt. Prospect, IL.

John J. Winch was elected to be first vice chairman. Winch is president and chief operating officer of The Minster Machine Co., located in Minster, OH.

The second vice chairman and treasurer is Lawrence J. Rhoades, president of Extrude Hone Corp. of Irwin, PA. The secretary is R. J. Weskamp, president of Wes-Tech Inc., located in Buffalo Grove, IL.

The other directors are:

- John L. Drake, CEO of Drake Manufacturing Services Inc. of Warren, OH;
- J. Patrick Ervin, president and COO of Hardinge Inc., Elmira, NY.
- John W. Fedor, president and CEO of Masco Machine Inc. of Cleveland;
- Roger H. Hayes, president, director and CEO of Huffman Corp., Clover, SC;

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- Bradley L. Lawton, president of Star Cutter Co., Farmington Hills, MI;
- Kyle H. Seymour, president of Cincinnati Machine of Cincinnati;
- Charles T. Sherman, president of PH Group, Columbus, OH; and
- Douglas K. Woods, president of Liberty Precision Industries of Rochester, NY.

Falk Corp. Has New President

Gary H. Kaine has been appointed Falk Corp.'s new president and has been given the task of increasing its sales in the global industrial market.

Kaine joined Falk, a Hamilton Sundstrand company, after leading a successful turnaround at Sullair Europe, another Hamilton Sundstrand company. He was Sullair Europe's president from 1996 to 2000. Under Kaine, Sullair Europe went from losses to profits through

restructuring and an emphasis on customer growth and increased productivity.

"My long-term commitment is to serve customers with greater speed, accuracy and quality through on-time product delivery, rapid introductions of new products to the market, and by focusing on e-business," Kaine said.

Falk Corp. manufactures industrial power transmission machinery. Hamilton Sundstrand supplies aerospace and industrial products and is a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp.

Metso to Develop Gear Service and Wind Power in Finland

Metso Corp. will build new technology facilities in Jyväskylä, Finland, for developing its gear service capabilities and wind power technology.

The building program includes expanding production facilities for wind

turbine gears. The market for wind power plants is increasing annually by 40 percent, with the greatest growth in the highest power classes. Metso said developing gears for such plants requires full-scale testing facilities and a remote diagnostics capability.

The company also said extra facilities are needed for gear production and for the growing field of gear service.

The new facilities will include a continuous testing laboratory able to test gear units that can generate up to 6 megawatts of power. As for gear service, the facilities will emphasize global development, training and support operations for maintaining wind power gears, integrated paper machine drives and heavy industrial gears.

The facilities were scheduled to be completed in October 2001.

Metso Corp. supplies process industry machinery and systems.

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Caterpillar Gets Almost \$19 Million for Two Projects

Caterpillar and its joint venture partners received almost \$19 million from the Commerce Department's National Institute of Science & Technology for two research and development projects.

Caterpillar said one project, "Coating-Enabled Component Design/Technology Tools for Nanostructured Coatings," was intended to develop lighter, more efficient and more durable power transmission gears and other machine components.

The project was expected to benefit the economy, especially the automobile industry, by more than \$6 billion annually.

The company said the other project, "Intelligent Flexible Laser Integration," was meant to overcome Europe's lead in laser-based manufacturing by developing a new high-powered laser that would be capable of multiple functions. The laser would be used to improve manufacturing and repair in fields such as commercial and naval shipbuilding, aircraft and automobile industries, and construction and mining.

That project was expected to benefit the economy by more than \$12 billion over a six-year period.

Caterpillar's partners in the gear project include J.A. Woollam Co. and United Technologies Research Center. Caterpillar's partners in the laser project were Cutting Edge Optonics, MTS Systems Corp., Bender Shipbuilding and General Electric Corporate Research and Development.

Work on the multi-year projects was expected to take place in Mossville, IL, at Caterpillar's Technical Center, and at the partners' facilities.

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