

**Do you have news? Send it to: Robin Wright, Assistant Editor, Gear Technology:**  
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## **Ikona Gear Launches Oil and Gas Division, Signs Licensing Agreements**

Ikona Gear launched Ikona Industries Corp. to focus on developing, manufacturing and shipping novel gearing applications for the oil and gas industries.

According to the company's press release, the new division has already secured its first customer with the lead project boosting revenue in excess of \$250,000. Vladimir Scekcic, Ikona's new vice president for business development, is spearheading this project.

The new division will develop gearing solutions for speed increasers, speed reducers and draw works applications.

"The oil and gas market is the hottest it's ever been," says Scekcic. "It's characterized by an older generation of inefficient technologies, and with today's equipment utilization rates well over 90% across the market, new technology is necessary to meet burgeoning demands. Not only does the oil and gas industry provide the perfect arena for our technology, but the applications we've developed are portable across other alternative energy markets, including wind power generation."

Ikona has also entered into two licensing agreements. The company signed a multi-million dollar technology licensing agreement with Magna Powertrain AG & Co. as well as a separate agreement with a global robotics company.

The Magna Powertrain agreement stipulates that Magna will license the Ikona Gear platform for incorporation into automotive applications in passenger cars and light trucks, SUVs, pick-up trucks, minivans, cross-utility and similar vehicles throughout North America and Europe. Ikona Gear will receive royalties on a per-application, per-unit basis for exclusive and non-exclusive Magna automotive applications.

Finally, Ikona has also signed an agreement for the design and development of a gearbox for a robotic application. Ikona will receive an initial prototype development fee and, once commercialized, a sliding scale royalty stream of 4–9% based on sales volume. A non-disclosure agreement was signed by both companies.

## **Mid-Europa Partners Acquires Wheelabrator Group**

Mid-Europa Partners (MEP), through its Emerging Europe Convergence Fund II LP, has completed the acquisition of all outstanding Wheelabrator Group equity from an investment group led by Bard & Co.

According to Wheelabrator's press release, this new development will not affect its current strategy. The group will continue to pursue the action plan it developed over the last three years following its spinoff from Veolia Environment. Wheelabrator's

corporate functions, currently located in Golden, CO, will be moved to Altrincham, England, over the coming year.

"This is a major milestone in our development," says Robert E. Joyce Jr., chief executive officer of Wheelabrator. "Central Europe has a key role in our growth strategy, and MEP brings to the group investment and geographical expertise in the market segment we have targeted in the region. In line with this strategy, we are significantly increasing our main manufacturing activities in Poland to further strengthen our position in these markets. Central Europe is also at the very heart of MEP's investment philosophy, making them the perfect partner for us to achieve our next level of growth."

## **Rotork Acquires Italian Valve Gearbox Manufacturer**

Rotork Controls Ltd. acquired the business and assets of Omag Snc, a gearbox manufacturer based in Milan, Italy.

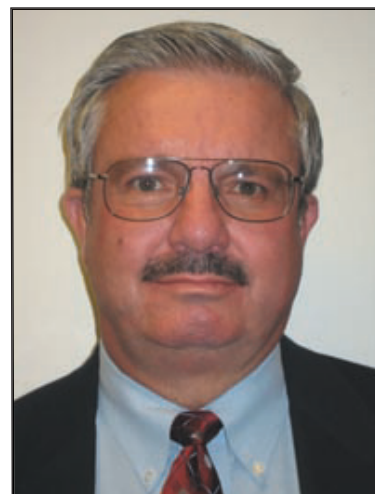
According to Rotork's press release, this acquisition provides its gears division with a manufacturing and sales base in the Italian valve market in addition to its current manufacturing sites in the United Kingdom, United States and the Netherlands.

Omag specializes in sub-sea valve gearbox design. The Omag name has been changed to Rotork Gears Srl. Roberto Boldorini, current owner of Omag, has accepted the position of general manager.

## **Wall Colmonoy Promotes John Sturch**

The board of directors at Wall Colmonoy Corp. elected John Sturch to the position of vice president. Sturch has worked at Wall Colmonoy for the past 30 years, most recently as general manager of the business unit in Oklahoma City.

Sturch will be responsible for business development and growth of the Wall Colmonoy licensed repair stations in Oklahoma City and San Antonio.



**Wall Colmonoy**

## TSA America Relocates, Appoints New Sales Manager

Janice Thomas was appointed sales manager for the gear cutting tools product line of TSA America.

According to the company's press release, she has worked in the global gear tool industry for the past 25 years. Most recently, she was sales manager for Greg Allen Co. Before that she worked as U.S. sales manager for David Brown Gear Tools.

Thomas is responsible for managing and directing a nationwide network of sales and customer service representatives.

TSA America has also recently relocated. The new address is:

**TSA America LLC**  
**30311 Clemens Rd., Ste. #2**  
**Westlake, OH 44145**  
**Phone: (440) 614-0170**  
**Fax: (440) 614-0173**



## Kleiss Gears Accredited to ISO 9001

Kleiss Gears announced its recent accreditation to ISO 9001.

According to Rod Kleiss, company president, the certification was necessary for several of the company's customers.

"We already had many of the requirements in place that ISO wants," he says. "We document requirements, keep inspection records, maintain machinery on a scheduled basis, etc. ISO did force us to look at each individual task and put down in writing what we intend to do and how we intend to do it. There were some areas that needed attention, and I'm not sure we would have discovered them so quickly without this process."

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