

AFC-Holcroft

ADDS TWO PARTNERS IN CHINA



From left to right: Xie Fei, Janusz Kowalewski, Feng Li-Hua and Nancy Kowalewski (photo courtesy of AFC-Holcroft).

AFC-Holcroft recently announced the addition of two new partners in China: G-Wang Precision Auto Parts Company Ltd. in Jiangshan, Zhenjiang Province, and Jilin Plate Heat Treating Company Ltd. in Changchun, Jilin Province in the northeast of China. G-Wang Precision is a member of the San Yung Group Taiwan, who specializes in continuous mesh belt type atmosphere furnaces. They will focus exclusively on AFC-Holcroft Aluminum Brazing (CAAB) technology for China and Southeast Asia. Their new 12,000 square meter facility is dedicated to the manufacturing of continuous furnaces for the aluminum brazing and aluminum process systems. San Yung Group is one of the largest furnace manufacturers in Asia, with sales worldwide, primarily to the fastener industry.

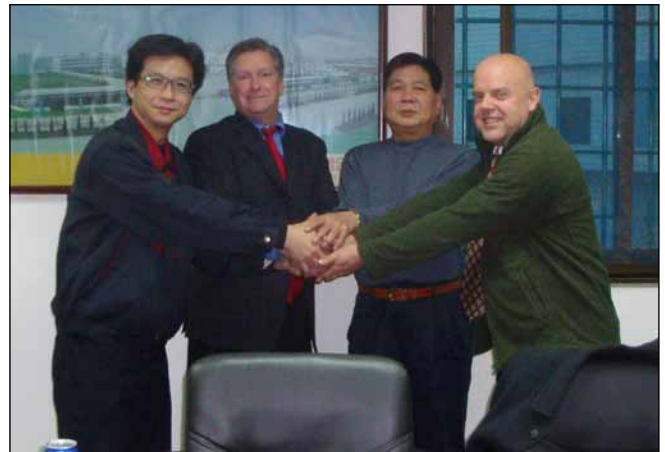
Jilin Plate Heat Treating Company, Ltd. specializes in pusher carburizing furnaces, mainly for customers requiring large-scale production, such as the automotive, railroad and bearing industries. The company history spans over 50 years, and incorporates professional design and development teams into a single-source supply for technical consultation, workshop design, equipment design, manufacturing, installation, debugging, service and staff training. Jilin Plate Heat Treating Company Ltd. holds an ISO2000 International Quality System certificate.

The partnership with Jilin Plate Heat Treating Company rekindles a relationship originally formed in the 1980s at FAW (First Automobile Works) when Jilin Plate was a wholly owned subsidiary of China FAW Group Corporation, prior to its restructuring. Mr. Xie Fei, the present-day president of Jilin Plate and William Disler, executive vice president of AFC-Holcroft, worked together at FAW in the 1980s as young engineers, installing a large amount of Holcroft equipment.

The signing of these new Chinese partners brings the total to three, including longtime AFC-Holcroft partner Shanghai Powermax. Shanghai Powermax will continue to focus their efforts on marketing and manufacturing AFC-Holcroft's UBC (Universal Batch Quench) and UBQA (Universal Batch Quench Austemper) and auxiliary equipment.

"These changes in China represent further proof of AFC-Holcroft's ongoing commitment to global expansion and support," says Disler. "Not only are we focused on new regions, but we are also constantly improving our ability to service existing regions."

Adds Janusz Kowalewski, managing director of the AFC-Holcroft Shanghai Office, "We are very pleased with our new partners and existing partner PowerMax to expand our market coverage of China and Southeast Asia. AFC-Holcroft is committed to excellence in service and looking forward to provide advanced technology with local support and manufacturing capabilities."



From left to right: Steve Yang, William Disler, Yang Yung-Hsu and Janusz Kowalewski.

Gleason

FORMS STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH MANUTEC

Gleason Corporation and Manutec VaWe Robotersystem GmbH (Fürth, Germany) have announced the formation of a strategic alliance to serve the global gear manufacturing technology markets. Effective immediately, Gleason and Manutec will cooperate in the development and sale of robots for chamfering and deburring of large-module gears. The base model robot, the R500CHD, has a work table load capacity of 500 kg, with a table load capacity of up to 6 tons available upon request. Maximum gear diameter is limited only by the robot mounting and distance from the work table. Gleason-Manutec robots offer short cycle times, exceptional path accuracy and simple, automated operation without complex programming requirements. Karl-Josef Schäferling, director of product management for chamfering

and deburring solutions for Gleason, said “The Gleason-Manutec robot provides the customer with a flexible, accurate and efficient solution for complex gear chamfering and deburring operations. It is the perfect complement to Gleason’s line of gear cutting machines.” These products and solutions will be sold through Gleason’s worldwide sales channels with technical support provided by both Gleason and Manutec.

Gear Motions

ACQUIRES PRO-GEAR

Gear Motions Inc. has acquired Pro-Gear Co. Inc., in Buffalo, New York. Pro-Gear is a gear manufacturer for original equipment manufacturers such as Mack Truck, and also provides quick-turnaround gear grinding services for gear manufacturers that need additional capacity or companies that need external gear grinding services. Gary Rackley, founder and president of Pro-Gear, has more than 45 years in the gear industry, and will transition the company as it joins the Gear Motions family of precision ground gear specialists. “As Pro-Gear becomes part of Gear Motions, we will continue to offer a high-level of flexibility and customization to our customers,” said Gear Motions President and CEO Sam Haines. “The transition should be seamless as all personnel from the Pro-Gear production team join the Gear Motions team at our Oliver Gear location.”

“This is a great merger of Gear Motions’ state-of-the-art gear grinding technology with Pro-Gear’s proven ability to turn around its customers ground gears needs in a hurry,” said Rackley.

Manufacturing Technology

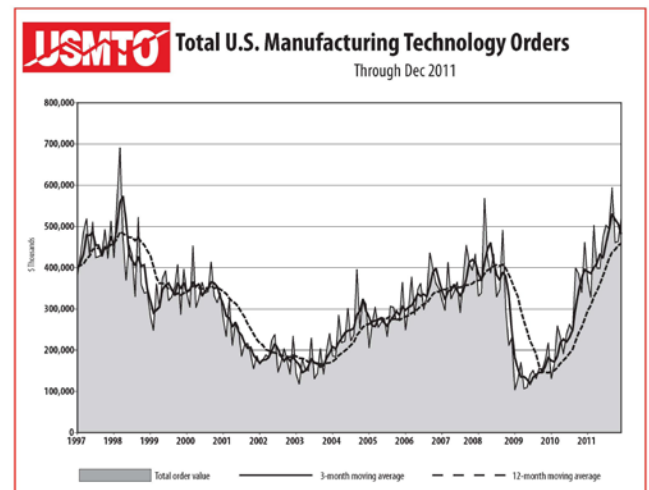
SURGE HIGHLIGHTS 2011

December U.S. manufacturing technology orders totaled \$519.98 million, according to the Association for Manufacturing Technology (AMT) and the American Machine Tool Distributors’ Association (AMTDA). This total, as reported by companies participating in the United States Manufacturing Technology Orders (USMTO) program, was up 12.2 percent from November and up 12.7 percent when compared with the total of \$461.48 million reported for December 2010. With a year-to-date total of \$5,508.81 million, 2011 was up 66.4 percent compared with 2010. These numbers and all data in this report are based on the totals of actual data reported by companies participating in the USMTO program.

“USMTO finished its strongest year in more than a decade

as manufacturing led the U.S. recovery into 2012,” said AMT President Douglas K. Woods. “The 67 percent increase is nearly 20 points higher than forecasters predicted; which is great news in terms of reducing the foreign trade deficit. Manufactured goods represent more than 65 percent of trade, so the rise of U.S. manufactured products will help reduce our reliance on imports and support growth in exports.”

The USMTO report, jointly compiled by the two trade associations representing the production and distribution of manufacturing technology, provides regional and national U.S. orders data of domestic and imported machine tools and related equipment. For more information, visit www.amtonline.org.



Seco/Warwick

SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH EXPANITE

Seco/Warwick Group, a worldwide industrial furnace and heat treatment equipment supplier and Expanite A/S, a ThinkTank technology company from Denmark, signed an agreement for Seco/Warwick to be the exclusive supplier for the Expanite and SuperExpanite processes. Expanite and SuperExpanite are patented processes for the surface hardening of stainless steel to achieve superior surface and material properties, such as high hardness, extraordinary corrosion and fatigue properties.

Seco/Warwick developed an advanced installation technology based on their longstanding experience with Expanite. The heat treatment unit is designed for the integration into the customer’s production lines even if the customer has limited heat treating experience. The infrastructure requirements are relatively small. The companies are calling it a plug-and-play approach to heat treatment technology. With the unique process knowledge of Expanite and the vast furnace expertise of the Seco/Warwick Group, both companies are expecting breakthrough successes in the market from

this cooperation. The first installations will be installed in Expanite's development and customer center in the second quarter of 2012 in Denmark.

Schafer Gear

HONORED WITH ECONOMIC AWARD

Schafer Gear Works was recently honored with the Economic Impact Award from the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County, Indiana. Presented at the Chamber's Annual Salute to Business Luncheon, this award recognizes a company's strategic vision and its sustainable capital investment in the local economy. In early 2011, Schafer Gear announced a joint venture with Somaschini S.p.A. of Italy to produce engine gears for the heavy-duty truck market in North America. As part of this joint venture, a new 50,000-square-foot plant was built on the Schafer Gear campus on Nimitz Parkway in South Bend. The total joint venture investment was \$18 million, including the new manufacturing facility. As a result, 25 jobs will be added by the end of 2012. For more information, visit www.schafergear.com.

Seco

DOUBLES RECYCLING EFFORTS IN 2011

Seco has released the annual results of its North American Carbide Recycling Program, revealing that the company collected and processed 57,368 lbs. of used carbide tools in 2011. This represented more than double the company's goal of 26,500 lbs., thanks to steady growth of the program throughout the year. With its Carbide Recycling Program, Seco provides manufacturers with small, medium or large storage containers to place within their facilities. Small containers hold approximately five lbs. of carbide, medium containers hold approximately 50 lbs., and the large drums accommodate approximately 1,500 lbs. As tools reach the end of their useful life, they can be placed in these containers,



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which are then collected by Seco. Any carbide products from any manufacturer can be submitted, including carbide inserts, solid drills, solid end mills, wear parts and PCD/PCBN-tipped inserts. Manufacturers are paid at the market rate when the carbide is returned.

"Over the past year, we've really spread the word to customers on just how easy it is to recycle used tools and inserts with the Seco program," says Vic Bruni, manager of quality at Seco Tools Inc. "Since launching the program in February 2011, we've seen a tremendous amount of growth and we're well on our way to our goal of recycling 50 percent of the carbide inserts we sell by 2014."

In addition to the well-publicized environmental benefits of recycling, Seco's Carbide Recycling Program helps to address the growing global demand for tungsten, which comprises 75 percent of cemented carbide. Up to 95 percent of the material in a typical carbide insert can be reclaimed, helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of the metal cutting industry. Manufacturers interested in participating in the Seco Tools Used Carbide Recycling Program can visit www.secotools.com.

ASM Trustee

VISITS LOCAL CHAPTERS

In 2012, Bob Hill, president of Solar Atmospheres of Western Pennsylvania, will continue his term as a trustee on the ASM International's Board of Trustees. The board of ASM is comprised of four officers and nine trustees. Three new trustees are elected by the membership every year, and each serves a three-year term. Throughout the year, Hill will visit a variety of ASM Chapters and present "Vacuum Heat Treating of Titanium in Commercial Airframes." In January and February, Hill visited the Canton/Massillon Chapter in Ohio and the Savannah River Chapter, Georgia. Additional visits scheduled to date include: March 8th at the Inland Empire chapter in Spokane, Washington; and May 10th at the Old South chapter in Greenville, South Carolina. If you are not an ASM member and would like to attend, please contact Hill at bobh@solaratm.com.



Bob Hill, president of Solar Atmospheres.

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PowderMet2012

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PowderMet2012, an annual conference sponsored by the Metal Powder Industries Federation (MPIF) and APMI International, will highlight the latest developments and trends in metal powders, as well as powder metallurgy (PM) processes, products, and applications. This International Conference on Powder Metallurgy & Particulate Materials will be held June 10–13 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee. The conference technical program will feature over 150 technical presentations by authors from more than 30 countries, and a trade exhibition will showcase leading suppliers of metal powders and particulate materials, processing equipment, and PM products.



The conference opening general session will include a keynote presentation, “America’s New Auto Industry,” by Drew Winter, editor-in-chief, *WardsAuto World* magazine. It will also include an overview of the annual MPIF State-of-the-Industry Report. Additional conference events include the Industry Recognition Luncheon and the PM Design Excellence Awards Luncheon. The social highlight of the conference will be an All-American Evening at the Grand Ole Opry.

In addition to the comprehensive technical program, the conference will include management-focused programs open to MPIF-member companies: “Powder-Handling Concerns”; “Outside Perspectives on PM’s Value”; “PM Activities at North American Universities”; and “PM Technology Scans” focusing on lightweight PM materials and alternative energy.

Technical sessions, poster presentations, and a slate of four special interest programs will cover a range of subjects such as metal injection molding, powder production, machinability, high-density materials, PM titanium, wear and sur-

Spiral Bevel Gears

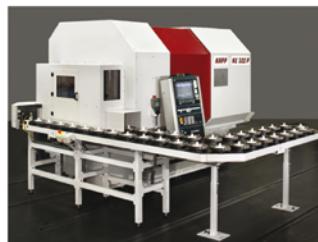
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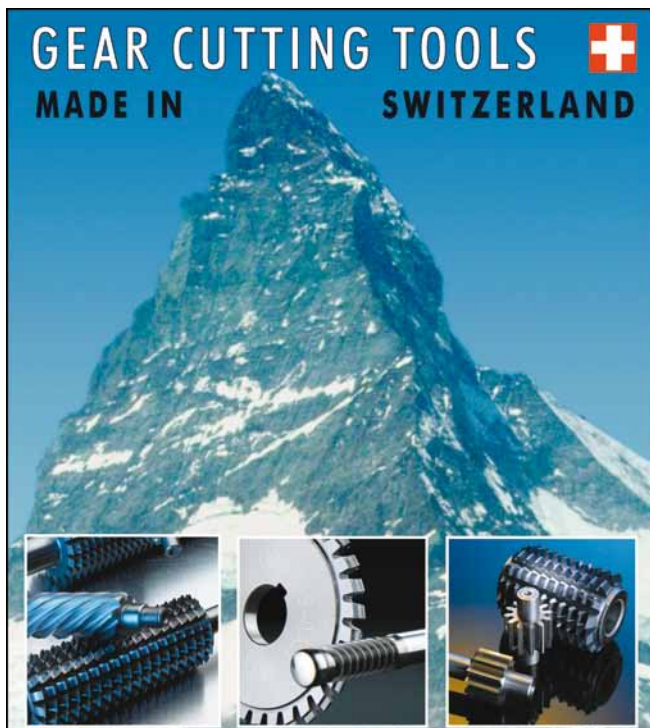



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W.T. Walker

ACQUIRES PMT INDUSTRIES

W.T. Walker Group, Inc., the parent company of Walker Forge, Inc. and Precision Thermal Processing, Inc., recently announced the acquisition of PMT Industries LLC. PMT, headquartered in Surgoinsville, Tennessee, is a manufacturer of complex, high-alloy steel forgings for safety critical engine and chassis applications. Established in 1997, PMT employs nearly 250 people.

"This is a very strategic acquisition that strengthens both companies," says Willard Walker, CEO of W.T. Walker Group. "Together, Walker Forge and PMT offer the broadest range of mechanical forging presses among any competitors in North America, ranging in size from 850 tons up to 8,000 tons. We are uniquely positioned to offer our customers a wide range of products and product sizes as well as solutions that will enable them to consolidate their supply chains and improve overall performance."

The companies have very complementary forging capabilities. Walker Forge produces forgings on presses from 850 to 4,000 tons, while PMT makes forgings on presses from 4,000 to 8,000 tons. In addition, the companies offer customers a broad range of value-added services that include machining and heat treating as well as metallurgical analysis and mechanical and chemical testing. "Our future is very bright. We are grateful to our customers and suppliers for their loyal support, and look forward to the new possibilities the acquisition opens for all of us," Walker says.

Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed. For more information, visit www.walkerforge.com.

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