AGMA

MOVES FORWARD WITH SPLINE TECHNICAL **COMMITTEE**



Following a long line of AGMA product and specialty standards, splines are finally getting an opportunity to join the discussion. In September 2010, AGMA hosted an organizational teleconference for the formation of a new technical committee on splines. AGMA staff members Charlie Fischer, Amy Lane and Amir Aboutaleb helped get the committee off the ground.

Aboutaleb, AGMA staff engineer, says more than 30 members attended the online meeting to discuss the proposal. The committee was formed "to address the existing lack of a comprehensive set of standards on design, rating, accuracy, application, inspection and maintenance of splines," Aboutaleb says.

The need for a spline committee was based on numerous inquiries received by AGMA headquarters. This need was echoed by some of AGMA's existing committees such as the Vehicle Gearing, Flexible Couplings, Cutting Tools and others through a request submitted to the Technical Division Executive Committee (TDEC). The request was presented to the TDEC at their last meeting in May and approved unanimously.

"In general, the committee will try to 'fill in the gap' so to speak," Aboutaleb says. "In their initial meeting, the participants decided to distribute a survey to determine what is being used in terms of spline standards and what is missing and remains to be developed.

Aboutaleb says the first teleconference was very encour-

aging based on the number of participants that gathered online to discuss the committee formation. "Due to the logistics of having 30 people on teleconference, there was no indepth discussion in September. However, based on a quick survey of participants, we expect 20–25 people to attend the face-to-face meeting in Chicago."

The attendees of the September online meeting included representatives from automotive, aerospace, mining, couplings and other areas of the gear industry. The topics that struck the most interest included spline types, rating and applications. In addition, there was initial discussion of a possible information sheet on terms and nomenclature for splines.

At the November meeting, the Spline Technical Committee plans to iron out all the initial proposals and move forward with its agenda. Aboutaleb says that positions within the committee will be also be determined.

Those working with splines in the gear industry would benefit from getting involved in the committee and sharing experiences. As is the case with all AGMA committees, the full-time AGMA staff discusses committee work with potential new members and during visits with existing company members. Committee participation exposes members to new technologies, technical standards and education they may not receive on a day-to-day basis. Those that share an interest in specialty areas such as splines should consider becoming a member by filling out the online form at www.agma.org.

Brelie Gear

EXPANDS CAPACITY. **INVESTS IN NEW MACHINERY**

Brelie Gear Co, Inc. recently announced the acquisition of a new Mitsubishi GE-20 CNC gear hobbing machine. According to company president Steve Janke, this acquisition was made in part as a commitment to Brelie Gear's continual improvement in quality. Additionally the improvements in efficiency over the Mitsubishi machine it is replacing will help to meet the production requirements of their growing customer list.

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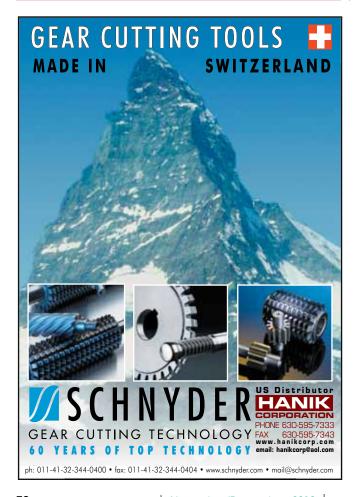
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Blahnik Manufacturing. The acquisition included purchasing multiple 10" chuck turning centers, a vertical machining center, as well as a horizontal machining center. Key personnel were also retained as a part of the acquisition. "The addition of this equipment and retaining key personnel will allow Brelie Gear to complete the gear manufacturing process for many of our customers from start to finish," says Janke. "Producing a high quality gear requires more than just cutting high quality teeth. Bringing these machining capabilities in-house helps us to control our costs and stay competitive in the marketplace, which helps our customers maintain their competitiveness."

Brelie Gear plant manager Tom Wagner discussed the equipment Brelie Gear has acquired since 2006:

- Koepfer Model 200 CNC gear hobber with automatic loading and unloading (purchased in 2006).
- Ty Miles MBLD -10-36-120 broaching machine (purchased in 2006).
- Koepfer MZ130 CNC 5000 RPM gear hobbing/ worm milling machine with automatic loading and unloading (purchased in 2008).
- Koepfer Model 200 CNC gear hobber with skiving attachment and automatic loading and unloading (purchased in 2008).
- Mitsubishi GE-20 CNC gear hobber. This allows the company to run an 8" diameter gear as coarse as 6 DP (purchased in 2010).
- Koepfer Model 200 CNC gear hobber with skiving attachment, automatic loading and unloading, as

well as a triple distributor system that allows for additional part capacity for higher volume jobs (delivery due Spring of 2011).



Ronson Gear

ANNOUNCES STAFF MOVES



Stephen Bell (left) takes on a key role in internal sales/estimating while Darren Snow (right) has been promoted to operations man-

In preparation for anticipated accelerated growth over the next few years, Ronson Gears has announced a change in management to better service new and existing customers both in Australia and overseas. Stephen Bell moves to a key role in internal sales/estimating after eight years as production manager. Darren Snow has been promoted to the new role of operations manager. Elwin Drummond is





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now the quality manager while Jason Graham has been promoted to technical manager. Gavin New will continue in his marketing and sales role and will also begin to undertake some administrative responsibilities. According to managing director Gordon New, "It's the company's people who are responsible for Ronson's long-standing reputation for outstanding quality and customer service. Our long-term relationship with customers in a range of industries including mining, aerospace, rail, agriculture, defense and automotive is important to us, and these positional changes will enhance those relationships."

Drake

SHIPS GAGE GRINDING MACHINE TO CHINA



Drake Manufacturing Services Co. recently shipped another in a series of high precision gage grinding machines to one of China's emerging API gage manufacturers. A precision tool manufacturer in central China is in the process of installing its second Drake internal gage grinding machine. The machine is a GS:TI 540 (Grinding System: Thread Internal) and will supplement and expand the customer's capacity to grind internal thread gages from 10 mm to 500 mm internal diameter threads. This company previously purchased a Drake GS:TI-LM 350 machine in 2005. It manufactures a full line of thread gages, taps, measurement equipment and other threading tools.

In the past two years, Baoshan Iron and Steel and Chengdu Chengliang Precision Tools have also expanded their gage grinding capabilities with the addition of Drake thread CNC internal and universal thread grinders.



Baoshan purchased a GS: TE/I-LM 650 universal grinder capable of grinding external threads up to 650 mm and internal threads up to 550 mm diameter. Baosteel produces American Petroleum Institute (API) thread gages used to check the integrity of threads on steel tubing and casing used in drilling for and transporting petroleum and natural gas.

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Romax and Hansen

SIGN AGREEMENT FOR WIND TURBINE SERVICES

Romax Technology, the drivetrain and gearbox solutions specialist, and Hansen Transmissions International NV, the wind turbine gearbox designer and manufacturer, have signed an agreement to combine their expertise to wind turbine manufacturers, primarily focused on the Chinese and South Korean markets. Romax and Hansen will work together to deliver to certain Chinese and South Korean wind turbine manufacturers a complete and technically advanced service for the design, development and supply of state-of-the-art gearboxes for multi MW wind turbines. As quality, time-to-market and cost are the cornerstones of the wind turbine industry going forward, this collaboration between Romax and Hansen aims to meet the requirements of the wind turbine manufacturers. It will include the design, certification and field validation of their wind turbine drivetrains as well as serial supply of the main components





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- AGMA 6014-A06 for open gears and AGMA 6011-I03 for high speed helical gear units
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The cooperation between Romax and Hansen aims to combine a shorter time-to-market, with high-end standards, plus serial testing and supply. The serial supply can be provided from Hansen's existing production facilities in Asia, including its state-of-the-art assembly and test facility in Tianjin, China. The collaborative agreement is non-exclusive and allows both companies to continue to work independently.

"The wind power industry will continue to experience significant growth over the coming years," says Luc De Proost, chief business development officer at Hansen. "Our partnership with Romax is a clear commitment to strengthening our resources, increasing and enhancing our offering, and targeting best in class time-to-market in the Asian region."

Dr. Stefan Lammens, chief technology officer at Hansen, adds, "We are excited by the prospect of developing this complementary relationship with Romax, as it enables Hansen to strengthen our position as one of the leading designers and manufacturers of high quality gear units whilst at the same time bringing our development activity closer to our Asian customers."

Dr. Peter Poon, chief executive officer of Romax, commented: "It is our belief that combining the complementary capabilities and expertise of Hansen and Romax will drive the technical advancement and effective supply of gearboxes to the wind energy industry. At the same time, this is a step forward in the rapid global deployment of next generation wind turbines."

MTConnect Institute

PROPOSES LEGACY TOOL GROUP

The MTConnect Institute recently proposed the establishment of the Legacy Machine Tool Connectivity Working Group (WG). This group will be essential in addressing the very important issue of providing best practices and overall guidance for the physical connectivity of the thousands of legacy machine tools in manufacturing shops around the globe. The group will be led by David McPhail, president/ CEO of Memex Automation Inc., and John Turner, director of technology for FA Consulting and Technology, as the co-chairs and consist of manufacturing equipment providers, ISVs, consultants and users.

Dave Edstrom, president and chairman of the board for the MTConnect Institute, stated, "This proposed working group is critical for enabling MTConnect on the countless number of manufacturing's legacy machine tools and I fully expect our MTConnect Technical Advisory Group to approve this new working group. We want to see an array of hardware options to enable MTConnect for both small and large installations."

"Bringing the capabilities of MTConnect to existing machine tools will allow manufacturers to increase productivity of their existing assets, driving down costs and increasing plant output. I am excited to co-chair the MTConnect Legacy Machine Tool Working Group to help bring the benefits of MTConnect to the existing installed base of machine tools," Turner says.

SME and Tooling University LLC

SIGN AGREEMENT

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), based in Dearborn, MI, and Tooling University LLC (Tooling U), based in Cleveland, recently announced they have signed a definitive agreement for SME to acquire all outstanding shares of Tooling U. The move is an important step in SME's strategy to address the global and growing need for skilled labor.

The substantial resources of SME's certification products, in-person training and webinar offerings will be combined with Tooling U's online training platform and more than 400 courses to provide the global manufacturing community with a comprehensive source of manufacturing knowledge. Educating the current and future manufacturing

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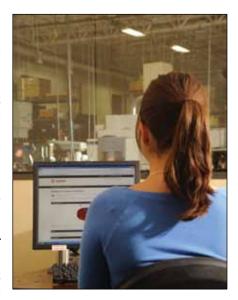






workforce is critical for the health and growth of the manufacturing industry.

"By 2012, it is estimated the United States alone will be short three million skilled workers," says Barbara M. Fossum, Ph.D., FSME, and president of SME. "Acquiring Tooling U is part of a new initiative that will enable us



to offer comprehensive learning and workforce development solutions to help companies combat this increasing talent shortage, and to provide a much broader span of continuing education opportunities for member career growth."

Tooling U's online training complements SME's highly regarded in-person training and certification programs to create a flexible, on-demand, customized and content-rich blended learning solution. "As the world of knowledge delivery continues to evolve, we will leverage the expertise and wealth of knowledge among our members to accelerate the development of new learning programs and meet the changing needs of the marketplace," Fossum says.

The full range of SME professional development resources is designed to benefit educational institutions such as high schools, community colleges, tech schools and universities, as well as practitioners and companies. SME will fill the gap for individuals seeking advancement in their careers in many areas of a manufacturing organization through continuing education, including in manufacturing management and leadership, according to Mark Tomlinson, SME executive director and general manager.

Following the acquisition, SME's Tooling U will continue to operate without interruption, providing online education with its existing staff from its base in Cleveland. Going forward, SME will invest in additional online courses and a more interactive interface to support all levels of employees from the machinist and shop-floor worker to manufacturing engineers and management personnel.