Kapp Technologies, Penta Gear and Koepfer America

ANNOUNCETECHNICAL SALES COLLABORATION

Kapp Technologies L.P. (KTLP), Penta Gear Metrology LLC (PGM) and Koepfer America LLC (KA) have entered into an agreement for technical sales representation and collaboration in North America.

The companies will share technical sales and engineering resources to support the growing demand for gear hobbing, shaping, chamfering, grinding, and measurement equipment and tools.

Customers seeking efficient access to gear manufacturing solutions will see that all three companies have actively expanded their product offerings to meet customer requirements. This collaboration ensures all gear manufac-



precision for motion





HELIOS gear products

turers have swift access to the latest technologies available.

KA, newly named Helios Gear Products LLC and based in South Elgin, IL, has earned a reputation for excellence in serving its customer base for over 30 years with premium hobbing, shaping, hob sharpening, chamfering, and analytical measurement technology. KTLP, based in Boulder, CO, provides precision gear and rotor tooth grinding and measuring equipment to all market sectors. PGM, based in Dayton, OH is an innovator in analytical measuring machine control, software, and functional gaging solutions and became a subsidiary of KTLP in 2015.

"KTLP, PGM and KA philosophies and specific capabilities are an excellent fit" says Bill Miller of KTLP. He points out that the three companies traditionally had unique niche customer bases which is changing. Leveraging the established sales relationships will benefit collectively all customers.

(www.heliosgearproducts.com)

Gleason

PUBLISHES COMPREHENSIVETRAINING PROGRAM CATALOG

Companies involved in the field of gear design and manufacturing have a common requirement: well-trained employees, both in terms of understanding the basics of gearing and power transmission systems as well as understanding the latest developments in gear design, manufacturing and inspection technology.

With its "Gleason Academy", Gleason leverages more than 150 years of expertise in producing gear manufacturing equipment to provide customers with seminars, webinars and classes in Gleason Academy locations, customers' premises and at industry events and symposiums. Gleason's training classes are available throughout the year on certain pre-determined dates or on request based on customer requirements.

Now, all courses available through the Gleason Academy can be found in one comprehensive catalog. The Gleason Academy offers courses in gear theory as well as hands-on gear design and manufacturing training; in total with 115 courses in 12 training centers around the globe: 4 in Europe, 4 in Asia and 4 in the Americas. While each location specializes in different gear technology topics, specific classes have been revised to be conducted in several locations to provide customers with a consistent and state-of-the-art training experience.

(www.gleason.com/training)

Marposs

EXPANDS SOFTWARE CAPABILITY WITH BLULINK ACQUISITION

Marposs has announced the acquisition of Blulink (Reggio Emilia, Italy), a company specializing in quality control and process management software development.

With a team of 40 engineers and professionals, the acquisition of Blulink expands and strengthens Marposs' capability in developing software products. This will help Marposs support its customers and move them more quickly to realizing Industry 4.0 initiatives.

Established in 1990, Blulink has focused its work on the development of software solutions for the integrated management of quality and safety in the working environment with a goal of helping companies to grow, be more efficient and reduce costs. Its most advanced research resulted in the Quarta3 platform, released in 2012 and adopted by over 1,000 companies in Italy as well as in many countries in the world. (www.marposs.com)

Seco Tools

ANNOUNCES NEW MANAGER OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

Seco Tools has named **Tyler Martin** as its new manager of engineering services. Formerly the manager of technical services, Martin previously oversaw the Technical Center at Seco's headquarters in Troy, Michigan. In addition to the Technical Center, Martin will now also manage Seco's Engineered Solutions team, working closely with customers to assist in the develop-



ment of fully optimized manufacturing processes.

"I'm very excited by the opportunity to make a greater contribution to Seco," said Martin. "Our engineering services give our customers access to our worldwide network of experts, and I'm looking forward to working with the global team to further improve our capabilities, expand our services and develop new partnerships, all to bring even greater benefit to our customers."

Martin initially joined Seco as a technical specialist, focusing on outside sales, before earning promotion to Seco Technical Education Program (STEP) technician in March 2011. For more than six years, Martin ran benchmark tests, evaluated new products and demonstrated techniques to students in STEP courses. At the same time, he began to pursue further education at Eastern Michigan University, where he is currently completing the coursework for his master's degree in engineering management.

Prior to joining Seco, Martin served as a manufacturing engineer for an Illinois-based manufacturing company, overseeing the business' CNC tooling and supply management. He also garnered experience in education as a part-time faculty member at Illinois Valley Community College, where he taught courses on CNC machining and industrial technology. Martin got his start in manufacturing as a research and development engineer following his graduation from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Science in integrated manufacturing systems technology. (www.secotools.com)

Hexagon

KEYNOTE SPEAKER KICKS OFF 2018 ASO INSPECTION DIVISION CONFERENCE

Zachary Cobb, director of engineering and R&D in North America, Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence, was the keynote speaker at the 2018 ASQ Inspection Division Conference. Cobb presented "Shaping the Future of Manufacturing," a frontline view on how emerging technologies, processes and production methods are







industry news

transforming the world of manufacturing.

Cobb discussed concepts of connectivity and the importance of linking systems and information together. He addressed the role model-based engineering plays in the tools, connectivity, data analysis and quality in the organization. The presentation also covered the changing workforce and its impact on the enterprise. Attendees looking to leverage the benefits of Smart Factory practices found Cobb's outlook on the future both helpful and exciting.

Cobb is part of a global team responsible for the design, development and support for Hexagon stationary and portable coordinate measurement machines and accessory products. He previously served in engineering management roles at Loud Technologies in Massachusetts and Mackie Designs in Reggio Emilia, Italy, where he led teams in the development of professional sound reinforcement products. Gaining expertise in engineering management at an international level, he learned the value of cross cultural awareness and its importance to engineers working in a global organization. Cobb holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering (BSEE) from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. (hexagonMI.com)



Schuler

SELLS 100TH HOT STAMPING LINE

In 1993, Schuler delivered the first three hot stamping lines to automobile manufacturer Ford in the USA. What was a brandnew method at the time has since established itself on the market as a global forming technology for automotive lightweight construction—and the trend continues unabated: Schuler has now sold what is the 100th hot stamping line to a Chinese automotive supplier.



"Compared with forming aluminum, carbon fiber-reinforced plastics and dual phase steels, this technology is an inexpensive alternative for lightweight automobile construction," as Daniel Huber explained, the head of Division Hydraulic at Schuler. Oemer Akyazici, the CEO of Schuler China, added: "Chinese automobile manufacturers and automotive suppliers, such as Shanghai Superior Die Technology Co., Ltd. (SSDT) or Baowei are increasingly turning to hot stamping."

The method, which involves heating sheet steel blanks to 930 degrees and cooling them during forming, was first introduced in the early 1990s — initially to improve passenger safety in vehicles — for example, to reinforce the doors in the Saab 9000, thus helping it to pass the stricter crash tests in the USA.

The technology was first introduced to large series production of the Ford Sierra in Europe and the Ford Mercury in the USA. The side impact beams and bumpers were created on Schuler systems at the time. After the turn of the millennium, the industry increasingly saw this method's potential for reducing vehicle weight while keeping pace with increasing safety requirements. Because press hardened components have a greater tensile strength that cold-formed high-strength steels, the use of material can be reduced, thus making the components lighter.

In 2006, the body of the Volkswagen Passat was the first to use twelve press hardened components. To allow this to happen, Schuler had built six hot stamping lines within the shortest possible time, and installed these at the Kassel plant. "This laid the foundation for growth that is still continuing," said Daniel Huber, general manager of the Schuler site in Waghäusel, Germany.

Currently, some 500 million hot stamped parts are produced annually on more than 400 systems worldwide. And, according to Huber, experts anticipate further growth: "Schuler identified this development at an early stage, and set up a Competence Center for press hardening at our Waghäusel site in the year 2006." This was followed in 2016 by the Hot Stamping TechCenter in Göppingen, a research and demonstration facility at the company's headquarters. (*schulergroup.com*)