

industry news

Rexroth

OPENS DALLAS REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER



Mike Rowlett, left, president of Bosch Rexroth distributor Womack Machine Supply, lends a hand to Berend Bracht, president and CEO of Bosch Rexroth in the Americas, cutting the ribbon at the open house for the Dallas Regional Service Center.

An open house launched the Bosch Rexroth Dallas Regional Service Center in December. The state-of-the-art repair, upgrade and maintenance resource center services industrial and mobile hydraulics components.

“Looking into the future, I am proud to say that this facility is only a starting point when it comes to Rexroth and service,” said Berend Bracht, president and CEO of Bosch Rexroth in the Americas, at the open house. “Rexroth is committed to servicing our customer-owned components and applications. That’s why we are so excited to celebrate this milestone in Rexroth’s history in the United States.”

Rexroth has a strategic commitment to fortify its service business, and the Dallas Service Center is just one of a nationwide network of regional hydraulics service facilities the company is planning.

“This is a major investment by Bosch Rexroth to better serve our customers and develop new markets,” Bracht said. “In these challenging economic times, we want to do everything we can to help our customers sustain and extend the profitable lifetimes of their Rexroth hydraulics components and systems. These regional service centers will let us deliver faster, more focused hydraulics repair services and ensure that our customers’ world-class products and systems are properly serviced by trained Rexroth technicians, using only genuine

Rexroth parts.”

The Dallas Service Center provides warranty service, repairs and conversions as well as exchange programs to help manufacturers reduce their carbon footprint by reusing housings from returned units. According to Jim Smith, director of the Regional Service Centers, industrial and mobile hydraulics customers will have access to field service in 2010. The center serves a broad range of industries, including offshore drilling, refining, automotive, plastics, construction, agriculture and steel manufacturing in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and parts of Florida.

“Customers have complained of receiving repair services from repair facilities that sometimes use lower-quality knockoff parts that have a high potential for malfunction or failure, rather than using best practices,” Smith says. “With the new Bosch Rexroth Regional Service Centers, customers won’t have to settle for cheap substitutes when you can get first-class repair and exchange service with factory-backed warranties from Bosch Rexroth, resulting in maximum equipment uptime and a minimum of unplanned service incidents.”

The 14,000-square-foot Dallas Service Center repairs Rexroth motors and pumps as well as proportional and servo valves. Rexroth worked with business partner Womack Systems—a distributor of hydraulic, pneumatic and automation equipment—to develop service and repair programs targeting the region’s hydraulic users. This included developing emergency repair programs featuring market-driven lead times for costing, repair and return of products to customers.

Southern California will be home to the next Regional Service Center set to open in early 2011. Other regional centers are planned to follow.



The view from outside the 14,000 square-foot Dallas Service Center, where Rexroth motors and pumps are repaired, as well as proportional and servo valves.

Carlisle

MERGES BUSINESS SECTORS

Carlisle Companies Inc. is combining its power transmission belt business, which was discontinued in 2008, with its tire and wheel businesses. Carlisle Power Transmission manufactures belts and accessories for industrial power transmission applications with annual sales around \$115 million.

In the second quarter of 2008, Carlisle PT moved to discontinue operations. "We announced plans to sell our power transmission belt business in April 2008," says David A. Roberts, chairman, president and CEO of Carlisle. "We were close to selling the business to a strategic buyer last year when our transaction was derailed by the financial crises.

"During our extended sales process, we also considered retaining the belt business, which has remained profitable, and combining it with one of our other businesses. Though we recently received an offer near book value, the decision was made to retain and combine the belt business with our tire and wheel business. These two businesses have similar manufacturing processes and share common customers."

Carlisle serves the on- and off-highway vehicle and equipment industries. It is evaluating the financial statement impact and estimates pre-tax charges of \$6.7 million related to fixed-asset charges and plant restructuring costs in the fourth quarter 2009.

NADCA

RECEIVES GRANT FOR FUEL EFFICIENCY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The North American Die Cast Association was granted \$1.5 million in funding for its HyperCAST project, which develops materials and processes for cast, high-strength, lightweight frame, body, chassis and powertrain components for fuel efficient passenger cars as well as commercial and military trucks.

The technology being developed focuses on fuel efficiency and cost competitiveness for the potential of 60 percent weight reduction without compromising component performance, cost safety or recyclability. Self-propagating high-temperature synthesis (SHS) is the material technology in development. SHS is also known as auto ignition combustion synthesis for generating composite materials with magnesium-based

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composites as the primary focus.

NADCA is conducting the HyperCAST project in coordination with the Colorado School of Mines, Ohio State University, Case Western Reserve University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Purdue University and Oak Ridge National Lab. NADCA believes the HyperCAST technology holds dynamic potential for protecting the environment and creating jobs in the die casting and automotive industries. For more information, visit www.diecasting.org/research/roadmap.htm.

Needle Roller Bearings Sale

TRIGGERS CHAIN REACTION



With Timken's acquisition of Torrington in 2003, needle roller bearings (left) were added to its product offering of tapered roller bearings (right).

The Timken Company finalized the sale of its Needle Roller Bearings business to the Japanese JTEKT Corporation, December 31, and the advantage of this transaction has caused a ripple effect through JTEKT to its sales, marketing and distribution arm, Koyo Corporation.

"The completion of this deal is a win for everyone involved," says James W. Griffith, Timken president and CEO. "The Needle Roller Bearings business' new owner is committed to the automotive industry, which provides new opportunity to customers and the talented associates who are transferring with the deal."

Needle Roller Bearings manufactures engineered needle roller bearings for automotive and industrial applications. The company was taken over by Timken through the acquisition of Torrington in 2003. JTEKT acquired a global production network of 12 needle roller bearing manufacturing plants; in North America those include Cairo, GA; Dahlonega, GA;

Sylvania, GA; Greenville, SC; and Bedford, Quebec.

During the last three months of 2009, Needle Roller Bearings suffered a loss of \$59 million after accumulating \$289 million in sales over the previous nine months. The divestiture is expected to reduce Timken's sales for the year, but the net effect on the company's earning is expected to be positive, according to Timken's press release, and is part of a broader restructuring.

"As to Timken, we've fundamentally changed our portfolio of business, in line with our strategy to optimize the enterprise," Griffith says. "The resources now in hand can be used to create greater value for our customers and shareholders, including pursuit of new growth in attractive industrial sectors."

The acquisition provided Timken with approximately \$330 million, including retained receivables. Timken plans to allot the proceeds for general company purposes while providing more liquidity, and improving the company's financial position as it looks towards strong cash prospects from operations in the coming year, the release said.

Koyo Corporation of U.S.A, a JTEKT Group company, designs and manufactures a range of bearings to industrial markets that include automotive, agriculture, electric motor repair, steel, construction, power sports and wind energy.

JTEKT's acquisition of Timken's Needle Roller Bearing business enhances the research and development capabilities, expanded product offerings and increased North American capacity for Koyo through the subsequent formation of Koyo Bearings USA LLC. The combined technologies and expertise extend Koyo's market reach.

"The alliance with Koyo Bearings USA allows us to maximize productivity and strengthen our current product offerings to meet the demands for the agricultural, construction and power sports markets, as well as be even more competitive and technologically advanced in the aerospace, machine tool and office equipment markets," says Yoshio Tsuji, president and CEO of Koyo Corp. of USA.

With three manufacturing facilities in Orangeburg and Blythewood, SC and Washington County, TN, Koyo Corp. of USA also has an engineering and technical center in Plymouth, MI. This manufacturing base is now complemented by Koyo Bearings USA's five needle roller bearing facilities and the Greenville Tech Center located in Clemson University's International Center for Automotive Research Park.

"JTEKT's decision to acquire Timken's Needle Roller Bearings business offers an opportunity for considerable synergies between the two companies," says Rob Hamilton, director, industrial OEM and aftermarket sales, Koyo Corp. of USA. "Our engineered and manufacturing experience joined with their resources and capabilities will allow us to expand our technological expertise and our product offerings into new industrial markets."

PMMI

PROMOTES TWO VICE PRESIDENTS



Katie Bergmann

Katie Bergmann was promoted to vice president of administration for PMMI, from director of administration; Maria Ferrante was appointed vice president of education and workforce development from her previous position as senior director of training and development.

PMMI is a trade association that represents companies manufacturing packaging, processing and related converting machinery, commercially available packaging machinery components, containers and materials in the United States and Canada.

Bergmann first came to PMMI in 2007 as human resources director. In this new position, Bergmann oversees and coordinates administrative duties for the association's Arlington, VA headquarters, and she manages all human resource functions.

Ferrante has been with PMMI since 1999 when she started as director of technical services. She helped launch *PMT* magazine, where she served as editorial director. Over the years, she has fulfilled a growing role in PMMI's education programs, and Ferrante was named senior director of training and development in 2009. In her most recent promotion, Ferrante is responsible for developing PMMI's education and workforce development programs, which include PMMI's Certified Trainer program and PMMI U's new online learning options.

"PMMI's emphasis on education has been growing exponentially, as have our infrastructure needs," says Charles D. Yuska, president and CEO of PMMI. "As our attention on these areas continues to increase, we clearly needed to dedicate senior staff to them. Katie and Maria have proven their capabilities repeatedly. We're excited to see them step up to the plate to move these essential goals forward."



Maria Ferrante

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