

Marposs

WINS GLOBAL SUPPLIER AWARD

Marposs S.p.A. of Bentivoglio, Italy, received the 2005 Global Supplier Award for Manufacturing Goods and Services from DaimlerChrysler AG.

“This award recognizes (Marposs) as an outstanding performer that provides us with high quality parts and services with appropriate technology, delivered on time, at a fair price,” said Thomas W. Sidlik, the DaimlerChrysler AG board of management member responsible for global procurement and supply.

The award is one of eight given this year honoring global suppliers to the Mercedes Car Group, the Chrysler Group and the Commercial Vehicles Division.

The collaboration between Marposs and DaimlerChrysler emerged because of the gauging systems supplied to the DCX



Holding the trophy is Mario Gelsi, managing director of Marposs S.p.A. Also shown (left to right) are Tom Drzewiecki, DCX account manager, Marposs Corp.; Thomas W. Sidlik; and Edward Vella, president, Marposs Corp.

Commercial Vehicles Group and the automotive engine groups of both the DCX and Mercedes. Marposs has also contributed to DCX transmission manufacturing and the production of other powertrain components. ■

Fairfield

ACQUIRED BY SAURER AG

Fairfield Manufacturing was purchased by Saurer AG in January.

Based in Switzerland, Saurer is a global leader in textile machinery and power transmission solutions.

Fairfield will become part of Saurer's transmission systems business and plans to remain in Lafayette, IN. The business segment also includes Graziano Trasmissioni, a manufacturer of gears, axles, transmissions and complete driveline solutions for on- and off-highway markets.

Gary Lehman, president and CEO of Fairfield, says, “For almost 20 years, Fairfield has been owned by a series of investment companies with short-term goals. This final step of our financial restructuring that began in 2004 allows us to become part of a world-class manufacturing group with a long-term commitment and focus on global growth. Saurer brings an exciting new perspective to Fairfield and represents

an extremely positive development for our employees and location.”

Plans are to continue operating this plant at current employment levels.

Graziano, headquartered in Italy, has 11 manufacturing locations globally and employs more than 3,000 people. The company offers a range of OEM product solutions, including gearboxes, transmissions and transfer cases for both on-highway vehicles as well as drivelines, axles and related gearing components.

Fairfield Manufacturing Co. is a provider of gear and drive solutions for mobile and industrial machinery, including the TorqueHub® planetary final drives.

The combination of the two companies creates a solution provider for specialty transmissions and gears. Fairfield adds assets such as access to new applications, a foothold in the NAFTA market for Graziano, and better access to U.S. customers. ■

Ford

ANNOUNCES CLOSING OF 14 PLANTS

Ford Motor Co. announced plans to close 14 plants over the next seven years, with seven of them shutting their doors as soon as 2008.

Among the earliest plants to close will be the Batavia, OH, transmission manufacturing plant, which employs more than 1,000 people. Other plants slated for closure are those located in St. Louis, MO; Atlanta, GA; Wixom, MI; Windsor, ON; and two to be named later.

The move is part of a plan to restore profitability to Ford's automotive business and provide more clarity to the Ford, Lincoln and Mercury brands, according to a company press release.

Specifically, the company's goal is to achieve a lean and flexible manufacturing system combined with capacity matched to demand. Capacity will be reduced 26% by 2008. Material cost reductions of at least \$6 billion are planned by 2010. Plant-related employment will be reduced by 25,000–30,000 people in the 2006–2012 time period, in addition to salaried personnel reductions and a reduction in the company's officer ranks. ■

Induction Heating Companies

COMBINE SALES EFFORTS

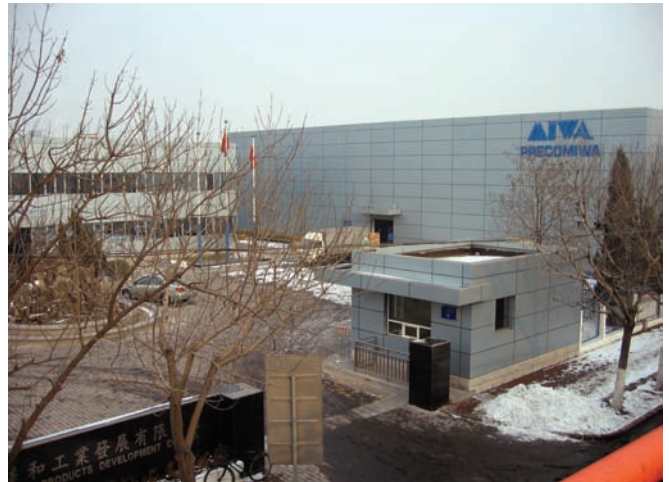
Inductoheat Inc., Radyne Corp., Newelco and HIS combined their sales efforts to serve induction heating and forging customers.

According to a press release, the companies are integrating their product lines to provide a single point of contact on power supplies, induction heat treating, tempering, forging, shrink fit, semi-solid melting, copper tube annealing, brazing, soldering and resistance heating.

For more information, visit the group's website at www.inductotherm.com. ■

Preco

OPENS CONTRACT MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN CHINA



Preco Inc. opened a contract manufacturing facility located in Tianjin, China.

"The establishment of contract manufacturing services in China is a natural extension of our U.S. operations, as our domestic and international clients expand their own manufacturing presence in China," says Bob Diehl, president and CEO of Preco.

Currently, Preco is globally represented in 32 countries with service support offices in Sweden and the U.K. and laser contract manufacturing facilities in Somerset, WI; Lenexa, KS; and Troy, OH. ■

Ohio Broach

PROMOTES EXECUTIVES

Charles Van De Motter was promoted to chairman of the board and CEO of Ohio Broach & Machine Co. Most recently, he held the position of company president.

Also, Christopher C. Van De Motter was promoted from vice president and general manager to president. Richard C. Van De Motter will take over as vice president and general manager, and James L. Lutz will move to the position of treasurer.

Ohio Broach, located in Willoughby, OH, designs and manufactures application-matched broaching machines and broaches. ■

HD Systems

MERGES WITH HARMONIC DRIVE

HD Systems and Harmonic Drive Technologies/Nabtesco Inc. merged Jan. 1 to form a harmonic drive gearing and motion control company.

The new company will be called Harmonic Drive LLC and will employ approximately 90 people. HD Systems Inc. owns approximately 51% of the company and Nabtesco USA Inc. owns 49%.

Harmonic Drive LLC, headquartered in Peabody, MA, will be led by Tetsuo Ikuta, president and CEO. Other officers will include Doug Olsen, executive vice president and chief marketing officer; Joe Yang, executive vice president; and Ronald Golini, vice president and chief financial officer.

The office in Hauppauge, NY, will remain open.





FIRST GEAR

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

“YOUR FIRST CHOICE”

For Outsourcing
Your Gear
Manufacturing

From Prototypes
to High Volume
Production

Visit our website for more info
www.first-gear.com

ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED

7606 Freedom Way • Fort Wayne, IN 46818
Tel: (260) 490-3238 • Fax: (260) 490-4093
www.first-gear.com

WE BUY GEAR MACHINES

Gear Hobbers, Shapers, Grinders, Sharpeners, Shavers,
Any Gleason Equipment, and Spline Rollers.



WE WANT TO BUY YOUR GLEASON INDEX PLATES, CONIFLEX AND
HYPOID CUTTER BODIES, CAMS, GEARS, AND SPARE
PARTS, SURPLUS TOOLING, EQUIPMENT AND
GEARS FOR ANY GEAR MACHINERY.

E-mail or fax us
a list of your surplus, with photos.

Ph: 847-437-6600
Fax: 847-437-6618
E-mail: sales@cadillacmachinery.com



CADILLAC MACHINERY CO., INC.
1401 Lunt Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 USA

Clifford-Jacobs

HIRES NEW SALES REP

Keith Vidourek joined the sales team at Clifford-Jacobs.

According to the company's press release, Vidourek and his company, Weber Associates, have covered Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia for more than 30 years.

Clifford-Jacobs Co. of Champaign, IL, produces forgings for the construction, off-highway and aerospace industries, among others. ■

Shanthi Gears

OPENS OFFICE IN GERMANY

To better serve the European market, Shanthi Gears opened an office near Düsseldorf, Germany.

Mr. Milroy Bede Nicholas will serve as liaison officer of the new facility. The new address is:

Shanthi Gears Ltd.
Aachener Str. 55/57
41061 Mönchengladbach
Germany
Phone: +(49) 2161-247-2393
E-mail: shantigears@t-online.de

Shanthi Gears manufactures worm and loose gears in six facilities throughout India. ■

Service Network

EXPANDS REPRESENTATION NETWORK

Service Network announced Precision Machine Tools Inc. as its exclusive representative for the Northeast region.

The principal, William J. Alexander will be responsible for all sales and marketing contacts in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Select accounts in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania will also fall in his territory. Alexander will work out of the Precision Machine Tools office in Vermont.

According to SNI's press release, Alexander has 25 years' experience in the industry in grinding design, applications, engineering and management. He worked for Cincinnati Milacron-Heald division for 12 years. When Heald closed, Alexander joined Bryant Grinder, where he worked in several roles, including management of quality assurance, customer service and sales. Upon Bryant Grinder's closing in 2002, he founded Precision Machine Tools.

For more information:

Precision Machine Tools Inc.
11 Commonwealth Ave.
Ludlow, VT 05149
Phone: (802) 228-7521

Machine Tool Consumption Jumps 8.4% in 2005

The Association for Manufacturing Technology reported that U.S. machine tool consumption totaled \$311.03 million in December.

According to the association's press release, this total was up 30.8% from November and 7.8% from the December 2004 total of \$288.54 million. With a year-end total of \$3.08 billion, last year showed an increase of 8.4% from 2004. ■