

Chuck Bunch Appointed as NAM Chairman

The National Association of Manufacturers board of directors unanimously approved the nomination of Charles E. (Chuck) Bunch, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Pittsburgh-based PPG Industries Inc., to become NAM Chairman for the 2007–2008 term.

PPG is a global supplier of coatings, chemicals, optical products, glass and fiberglass, with 110 manufacturing facilities and equity affiliates in more than 20 countries.

Bunch has served as vice chairman to NAM chairman John Luke, chairman and chief executive officer of MeadWestvaco Corp., since October 1, 2005.

Bunch joined PPG in 1979 and held a series of management positions before being named general manager of architectural coatings in 1992. He was made vice president of that unit in 1994 and vice president, fiberglass, in 1995. Bunch was elected senior vice president of strategic planning and corporate services in 1997, and executive vice president, coatings in 2000. In July 2002, Bunch was named president, chief operating officer and board member, becoming chief executive officer in March 2005, and taking his current post in July 2005.

As chairman of NAM, Bunch will focus on reducing the costs of manufacturing in the U.S., particularly with regard to reducing energy prices, taxes, and litigation, and working for a solution to the asbestos crisis.

“NAM is indeed fortunate to have a leader of Chuck Bunch’s stature as chairman,” said NAM president John Engler. “Chuck is well known throughout the business community as an inspired manager and visionary leader. We all look forward to his chairmanship.”

The NAM board also confirmed Michael E. Campbell, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Arch Chemicals, Inc., of Norwalk, CT, to serve as NAM vice chairman.

Campbell will serve as vice chairman during Bunch’s chairmanship, after which he will succeed Bunch for a two-year term as chairman.



Charles E. (Chuck) Bunch

AGMA Seeks New Vice President

Bill Bradley, AGMA’s current vice president of the technical division, will retire at the end of 2006, and the association is currently accepting applications for his replacement.

The vice president, technical division is the senior technical employee and reports to the president. He/she is responsible for managing and operating technical activities, including those related to the development and maintenance of all U.S. and international standards; for operation and development of several technical programs, conferences and seminars; for relationships with outside vendors, contractors and educators; for operation of member committees necessary for the association’s technical programs; for relationships with domestic and international members and prospects, associations, universities and other organizations as necessary.

The VP manages a staff of three and is also responsible for the relationship management of volunteers.

Suggested qualifications include an engineering degree with sufficient gear experience; a working knowledge of and experience with ANSI and ISO standards; proven management ability; strong public speaking and writing skills; and effective member relations.

To apply, e-mail a current resume to vptech@agma.org.

ISO Releases New Gear Standards

ISO’s Technical Committee on Gears, comprised of a multi-national delegation, published several new standards, including:

ISO 6336-1:2006, Calculation of load capacity of spur and helical gears—Part 1: Basic principles, introduction and general influence factors.

ISO 6336-2:2006, Calculation of load capacity of spur and helical gears—Part 2: Calculation of surface durability (pitting).

ISO 6336-3:2006, Calculation of load capacity of spur and helical gears—Part 3: Calculation of tooth bending strength.

ISO 6336-6:2006, Calculation of load capacity of spur and helical gears—Part 6: Calculation of service life under variable load.

ISO 23509:2006, Bevel and hypoid gear geometry.

The AGMA Helical Gear Rating (ISO 6336) and Bevel Gearing (ISO 23509) committees served as the technical advisory groups, determining the U.S. position on technical issues, throughout the development of these standards. A more detailed explanation is available at www.iso.org.

Philadelphia Gear Offers 24/7 On-Site Technical Support

Philadelphia Gear announces its new On-site Technical Services (OTS) group, available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

As an onsite solution to gearbox-related issues, OTS allows U.S. consumers to cut downtime caused by gear and transmission repairs. Removal, reinstallation, in-place machining, onsite overhauls, alignment, oil analysis and many other power transmission maintenance services are offered.

"It only takes one call for Philadelphia Gear to begin the evaluation process, dispatch a technician from one of five regional service centers, or schedule a 'job walk' in order to thoroughly understand the scope of the project and, most importantly, propose a solution," says Chuck Zirkle, manager for the OTS program.

Additionally, he says the company is in the position to supply OEM parts, then install them to bring decades-old gearboxes into "as-new" condition. Philadelphia Gear's service technicians will provide hands-on support throughout the process.

"OTS enables customers to stay focused on their business, while we seamlessly handle the repair with a 'one-stop-shop' philosophy," says Gerry Matteson, Philadelphia Gear's general manager. "By digitizing more than 3,000,000 pages of proprietary technical documents, we now have instant access to critical information from anywhere in the world with just a few keystrokes."

Ikona Exec Featured in Online Broadcast

Ikona Gear's CEO, Ray Polman, was featured live on Market News First on September 5.

According to the company's press release, he discussed the company's goals and current position in the stock market on the show.

Market News First is an online market news provider that brings investors current news on the market.

Ikona's gearing technology was invented in Russia between 1986-1991 for a lightweight, long-range, military assault helicopter. Laith Nosh acquired rights to the new gear invention and imported the technology to North America. From 1992-2001, Ikona's engineers worked under Dr. John R. Colbourne in the development and commercialization of powertrain products that incorporate the patented gear technology.



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Northstar Aerospace and Rolls-Royce Sign Long-Term Agreement

Northstar Aerospace was awarded a seven-year contract by Rolls-Royce Corp. to provide machining for gearboxes and related parts used in commercial and military aircraft. The contract is estimated to provide \$8 million in annual revenue to Northstar once in full production.

Northstar is establishing a facility in Anderson, IN to function as a specialized feeder plant for Rolls-Royce.

The Rolls-Royce facility in Indianapolis is the company's largest manufacturing operation in North America. They design, develop and manufacture engines and components for various fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, including the Joint Strike Fighter, Embraer regional jets, Cessna Citation X corporate jet, V-22 tilt-rotor helicopter and other light single- and twin-engine helicopters.

"This contract is the latest in our growing relationship with Rolls-Royce. The proximity of a facility in Anderson provides the opportunity for Northstar to become a primary supply partner with Rolls-Royce, specializing in gearboxes and related components for Rolls-Royce engines used in defense and commercial applications," says Mark Emery, Northstar Aerospace's president and CEO.

According to Northstar's press release, the new facility will employ 40 people, mostly CNC machinists, by late 2007. The company estimates beginning to supply Rolls-Royce within the next 90 days and full production is estimated in 2008.

Mazda Hofu Plant Produces 25 Millionth Transmission

Mazda Motor Corp. announced that cumulative production of vehicle transmissions in the Nakanoseki district of its Hofu plant in Yamaguchi reached 25 million units. In addition, the company announced plans to increase annual production capacity of automatic transmissions for front-wheel-drive models from 655,000 to 764,000 units in response to the global demand for the Mazda 3 and Mazda 5.

According to the company's press release, the 25-million-unit milestone was achieved in 24 years and 9 months since the Hofu plant began production in December 1981. After production of the automotive parts began in 1981, the Hofu Plant No. 1 was built in the Nishinoura district in 1982 for vehicle production. Hofu plant No. 2 was added in the Nishinoura district in 1992 for vehicle production.

Lufkin Industries Announces Promotion of Larry Hoes to Executive VP and COO

Lufkin Industries promoted Larry M. Hoes to executive vice president and COO.

Hoes has been an executive officer since 1996. In his new position, he will manage the operations of the oil field division directly, including foundry operations. All vice presidents/general managers of the power transmission and trailer divisions will report to him.

"I am pleased to announce the promotion of Larry Hoes, a veteran Lufkin executive officer who has led the substantial growth of our oil field division into a position of worldwide industry leadership," says Douglas V. Smith, Lufkin's president and CEO.

Tool Maker Expands to Meet Automotive Demand

Engineered Tools Corp., a manufacturer of carbide cutting tools used in production of spiral bevel ring gears and pinions, announced the opening of its new Gear Cutting Systems Division facility. The expansion was driven by the Caro, MI-based company's recent positioning as a supplier to the automotive industry, which was seen primarily as an opportunity to grow new business.

According to John Ketterer, director of operations for Engineered Tools, the move—completed in October—was also made with an eye on the potential for meaningful growth within that market. "We had been looking for an avenue to expand our business," he says, "and because this market has a significant percentage within the automotive industry, and given the state of that business, we took the risk of expanding within it."

The new 4,000-square-foot facility, located in Troy, MI, positions the toolmaker in close proximity to the Detroit axle manufacturing market. And, says Ketterer, given the company's growth beginning in 2004 and continuing through this year, he believes the timing of the expansion—despite the acknowledged risk—will dovetail with an eventual upturn for suppliers to the automotive market.

"After all, even though that market is very weak, currently it was new business growth to us," he says. "And entering it on the downside was gaining current market share with the potential for growth within the market."

But risk or not, Ketterer says that the expansion was needed in any case. "We needed the room for expansion anyway, as our Caro manufacturing facility is full," he says. "So, we basically killed two birds with one stone. The facility was built to suit for our needs, and will accommodate our current

workload with enough room to accommodate significant growth in this business into the future.”

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Star Cutter Acquires Northern Tool Sale and Service

Star Cutter Company of Farmington Hills, MI, announced the acquisition by stock purchase of Northern Tool Sales & Service (NTSS) of Warren, MI, effective October 31.

Northern Tool Sales & Service is a design-and-build manufacturer of tooling concepts for special drills, reamers, step drills, form tools and solid carbide tooling, supplying approximately 170 customers in the ABS systems, cylinder head, and engine block manufacturing industries.

Star Cutter manufactures gear hobbing and shaping cutting tools, milling cutters, gundrills and reamers, carbide tools, PCD tools, and drills, selling through its partner, Star SU LLC. Star Cutter plans to integrate all NTSS customers with Star Cutter and Star SU.

Brad Lawton, president of Star Cutter, says, “This acquisition is synergistic, as well as complementary, to our market strategy for tool sales worldwide.”

Chris Schulte, president of Northern Tool Sales & Service, says, “The sale to Star Cutter increases our ability to utilize the best technology of both corporations to increase our market penetration and service to our existing and potential customer base through Star SU.”

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AGMA Foundation's New Approach Yields Value for the Gear Industry



Starting last year, the AGMA Foundation Board redefined its mission.

Kyle Seymour, president and CEO of Xtek Inc., is board chairman. He outlines their new goals as two-pronged. The first part involves supporting work that enhances existing AGMA standards. Secondly, the foundation aims to fund the development of education and training so the industry can advance knowledge of the standards.

"We're changing our approach as well," Seymour says. "In the past, we've just let people know we're raising money. Now that we have identified two main areas—the development of science to support technical standards, and education and training—we can become more proactive based on need. We'll be able to identify where needs are and then search for a way to sponsor the project."

Numerous programs fall under the foundation's umbrella, and one of the most successful is the Detailed Gear Design Seminar. Seymour says the AGMA granted \$6,000 to fund development of the course three years ago. Taught by Ray Drago, the class covers gear design; gear rating theory and analysis methods; differences in stress states among various surface durability failure modes; time-dependent and time-independent failure modes; examination of mesh action and tooth iteration with computer-generated graphics; and AGMA standards. The seminar has three classes that sell out very quickly and a waiting list of participants for the January 2007 class. Building on the success of the seminar, the foundation is providing \$12,000 for a new Gearbox Failure Seminar that will be presented in early 2007.

One of the foundation's most frequent collaborators is the Ohio State University's GearLab. "OSU has historically had a great gear group and has always been a good partner

for us," says Seymour. The AGMA Foundation funded a bi-annual research project on hypoid gear efficiency and has published year one's results on www.agmafoundation.org for interested parties to read free of charge. Year two results will be available in 2007.

The foundation's Workforce Education Program offers Internet-based interactive basic training courses in gears. Participants can take multi-level courses online and receive an AGMA certification for successful completion. Included in the nominal fee (\$25 for Fundamentals of Gearing, \$150 for Gear Inspection) is a study guide, sample exam, final exam and certificate.

Fundamentals of Gearing is a prerequisite to all other AGMA courses. Gear Inspection covers inspection methods and equipment.

Other foundation projects include "Where You Want to Be," a DVD presentation designed to recruit young people into the new gear industry. In addition the foundation funded a Gear Industry Technology Workshop. A full copy of the workshop is available on the foundation's website. Cindy Bennett, executive director of the foundation, says the foundation has already exceeded its 2006 fundraising goals and is only in the middle of the campaign season. In 2005, the foundation raised \$183,276 between both the fall campaign and the auction that is concurrent with AGMA's annual meeting in the spring.

"We want the members to know that we're here and eager to match up your needs with the right providers and make good things happen for you," concludes Seymour.

Paulo Products Upgrades to ISO/TS 16949:2002

The St Louis, MO facility of Paulo Products Co. passed its upgrade audit and has been awarded accreditation to ISO/TS 16949:2002.

Created by the International Automotive Task Force (IATF), ISO/TS 16949:2002 represents the technical standard requirements of the major automotive manufacturers around the world. ISO/TS 16949:2002 is required to continually measure, monitor, and improve, with an emphasis on preventing defects and reducing waste throughout the supply chain. In addition to this recent quality system upgrade, Paulo-St Louis is approved to the Ford HTX standard and has received the Ford "Preferred Supplier Award."

According to the company's press release, Paulo-St Louis is the third Paulo facility to become accredited to ISO/TS 16949:2002. Paulo-Nashville and Paulo-Murfreesboro, TN received accreditation to ISO/TS 16949:2002 in 2005. Other Paulo facilities are currently working toward receiving the ISO/TS 16949:2002 upgrade.