



New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc.  
— A Minebea Company —

# inside track

## NHBB's Yomantas Elected to Minebea Co., Ltd. Board of Directors



*Gary C. Yomantas, President and COO, NHBB*

New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc. (NHBB) President, Gary Yomantas, has been elected to the position of Minebea Co., Ltd. Executive Officer by its Board of Directors, effective June 29, 2006. Yomantas, currently Minebea's General Manager of Regional Affairs for North and South America and President of NMB (USA) Inc., in addition to his role with

NHBB, becomes the first American to hold such a post at Minebea Co., Ltd.

"My appointment as an Executive Officer of Minebea is a tremendous validation of my lifelong career within the Minebea family, and a great honor." Since Yomantas assumed the presidency of NHBB in 1993, the company experienced a dramatic turnaround and has enjoyed an extended period of profitable growth. He continued, "I am eager to further guide NHBB's exceptional progress, allowing our strengths and skills to create innovative opportunities of growth throughout all of our Minebea subsidiaries."

In his new role, Yomantas will continue to bring his wealth of industry expertise and proven talents to all Minebea's holdings. He will retain his position as President of NMB (USA), NHBB's parent company, as well as president of NHBB. In addition

to NHBB's three North American facilities, other subsidiaries of NMB (USA) include NMB Technologies Corporation in California and Hansen Corporation in Indiana.

Yomantas earned his Bachelor of Science degree in engineering at UCLA and an MBA from Pepperdine University's Graziadio School of Business and Management, on whose Board of Visitors he serves. He was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Pepperdine Business School in 1991. In addition, Yomantas is the immediate past chairman on the board of directors of the American Bearing Manufacturers Association.

Yomantas added, "I look forward to working more closely with the board and being part of the strategic planning and implementation for our worldwide group of companies."

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## Medical Design & Manufacturing East 2006



*Carroll Purvis,  
Product Specialist, NHBB  
Precision Division  
is all smiles at NHBB's  
MD&M trade show booth*

Following the success of its 2005 exhibition of products, NHBB once again was an active participant at the Medical Design and Manufacturing trade show in New York City, June 6–8.

NHBB promoted its full bearing product line, focusing on Miniature and Instrument products. The additional exposure afforded by having a larger booth this year was invaluable and certainly helped to draw more people in.

The rainy weather conditions in New York City did not discourage attendees from stopping by and requesting anything from a product catalog to technical information on ceramic hybrid bearings.

NHBB was the only bearing manufacturer in attendance at the show and already has a prime booth location secured for next year's show, June 12–14, 2007.

## NHBB's McNeil Named ACBG Member of the Year

Scott McNeil, NHBB Astro Division Product Engineering Manager, was recently named Member of the Year by the Airframe Control Bearings Group (ACBG), an aerospace organization within the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). The presentation was made at an annual meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The award is voted on by past recipients who are still active in the group, which include government engineering and logistics experts and leading aerospace industry bearing engineers from all over the world. The ACBG creates, promotes and maintains up-to-date specifications that define the manufacture, testing and

*"I simply have continued a successful tradition of past members who have mentored me and I am honored to be in their company."*

performance of bearings used primarily for the flight control of commercial and military aircraft. Individual attributes



*Scott McNeil, Product Engineering Manager, NHBB Astro Division*

considered for the Member of the Year award are level of contribution, commitment and leadership.

McNeil is the chairman of the Plain Bearing Committee of the ACBG and has published 14 technical bearing specifications for SAE, including Aerospace Recommended Practices for testing plain bearings (ARP5448/3 and ARP5448/7), Plain Metal Self Aligning Spherical Bearings specifications (AS8976, AS21154 and AS21155) and TEFLON®-lined Rod

End Specifications (AS81935, AS81935/1, AS81935/2, AS81935/4, AS81935/5, AS81935/6, AS81935/7, AS81935/8 and AS81935/9). He has supported the ACBG as a voting member with 19 years of bearing engineering, manufacturing and research and development testing experience. What may have clinched the award for McNeil was his advanced work in testing new bearings, proving new test methods and setups and then sharing this information with the group.

McNeil commented, "The information that I've compiled and presented was done to foster a cooperative working environment. It is imperative that this group work together. No votes or documents can proceed or pass unless there is a 100% consensus within the ACBG. This allows us to standardize test methods so customers can better know they are evaluating apples to apples and not apples to oranges." He continued, "I simply have continued a successful tradition of past members who have mentored me and I am honored to be in their company."



*Blueprint Reading class in session*

## NHBB Partners with Keene Community Education to Create Training Classes

NHBB HiTech Division in Peterborough, in cooperation with Keene Community Education and the Workforce Opportunity Council of New Hampshire, has initiated a series of training classes designed to provide current employees with new or advanced skills. The objective of this program is to help improve overall company efficiencies, productivity and profits.

According to Donna Marcin, NHBB HiTech Human Resources Manager, "We currently have three training classes in place for 2006 and look forward to working with Keene Community Education and a committee of regional employer representatives to expand the program further in 2007."

She continued, "One such skilled position that we are committed to is the computer numeric control (CNC) machinist. The capabilities of these machinists are invaluable to the overall efficiency of our bearing manufacturing." A class is scheduled for September at Keene High School to train personnel to produce various types of components using both manual and computer-aided machinery.

Instruction training in "Shop Math" and "Blueprint Reading" recently concluded this spring. Both classes took place at NHBB, led by Jack Meagher, Senior Engineer in HiTech's Quality Assurance Department.

The Workforce Opportunity Council of New Hampshire serves as a catalyst to promote lifelong learning by partnering with businesses, agencies and organizations to establish a secure workforce that can meet current and future skilled labor needs and provide a competitive advantage for all New Hampshire businesses.

## Antimicrobial Product Spotlight

“We have been successfully designed into more FDA-approved applications than any other bearing manufacturer, by offering continued product innovation and unsurpassed quality in products and services.”

– Alan Paynter



NHBB Precision Division in Chatsworth, California recently introduced the industry's first ultra-high-speed bearing with antibacterial properties. Ball bearings are an integral part of all rotational cutting tools used in surgical practice, medical and dental offices. The antimicrobial properties of the element silver have been used for more than 100 years to control bacteria, mold, mildew and fungus in medical and food applications. According to recent studies, up to 4% of all post-surgery complications are associated with surgical tools contaminated with bacteria.

NHBB Precision Division engineers have integrated antimicrobial silver plating into its patented Composite Metal Polymer Retainer. The silver-plated, machined polymer retainer has been primarily tested in bearings used for dental handpieces, with additional research and development ongoing for medical devices. The test results confirm that this

technology is unique in that it can extend the operational life of a medical or dental bearing, in addition to having a significant impact on the battle against hospital-related infections.

Introducing the antimicrobial properties of silver into ultra-precision miniature and instrument bearings used in a dental or medical application can potentially arrest the spread of bacteria. According to Alan Paynter, NHBB Precision Division Sales Manager, “With our broad range of engineered solutions, including bearing construction types, proprietary retainer designs and an extensive offering of coatings and platings, we can meet most application challenges.”

In addition to its antimicrobial and antibacterial properties, the composite metal polymer retainer increases the bearing operational life by up to 70% in any application requiring maintenance-free and reliable operation in extreme

environments. These applications are typically high speed with minimal lubrication and require repeated sterilization (autoclaving). The silver-plated retainer assists in overcoming traditional lubrication problems by combining the solid-film lubricating properties of the silver with the strength and durability of the polymer. The retainer features excellent antifriction properties, good thermal stability and low moisture absorption.

Paynter continued, “We have been successfully designed into more FDA-approved applications than any other bearing manufacturer, by offering continued product innovation and unsurpassed quality in products and services... NHBB is confident that its bearings can compete with and outperform any other in the medical and dental markets.”



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www.nhbb.com



Laura Macklin

Inside Sales Rep,  
HiTech Division,  
Peterborough, NH

Years at NHBB: 13

## NHBB in Person

Recently named 2006 Customer Service Representative of the Year, Laura has been providing superior service to NHBB customers for 13 years.

Laura works diligently with the HiTech Division Applications group to review drawings for new applications and programs that customers may be looking for NHBB to participate in. Much of Laura's primary work associated with aerospace industry leaders involves the quotation process and collaborating with production control to ensure on-time delivery of all outgoing products.

### Challenges:

"What I find most rewarding is the relationship of trust and confidentiality that I have established with my customers. It gives me a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment when a customer comes to me with a difficult problem, application or requirement that, as part of the HiTech team, we can solve together. I feel proud that our customers are confident and rely on NHBB for their bearing needs."

## 2006 NHBB International Sales Meeting Awards Dinner

June 8, Church Landing, Meredith, NH

In addition to Laura Macklin receiving the Customer Service Representative of the Year, **Carroll Purvis** was awarded the Extra Mile Award for extraordinary service in support of NHBB and its customers, **Cortland Strong** received the Outstanding Achievement Award honoring the memory of Takami Takahashi and **Josh King** was named Sales Engineer of the Year honoring the memory of Jim Coughlin.

## NHBB Astro Earns Northrop Grumman's Preferred Supplier Status

NHBB's Astro Division has been named a Platinum Source Preferred Supplier for Northrop Grumman Corporation's (NGC) Integrated Systems Sector. NHBB Astro was one of 31 suppliers from over 1,100 qualifying suppliers honored at the June 27 awards luncheon held in Manhattan Beach, California.

To be considered for this elite status, a company must demonstrate consistent, superior performance in delivering products and services. NHBB Astro has maintained 100% quality for the previous 12 months, providing tremendous support to the production lines and by expediting items through multiple processes with greatly reduced lead times in order to fulfill critical requirements.

"The support of our suppliers is critical to our sector's ability to produce and deliver affordable, high-performance products," said Scott J. Seymour, Northrop Grumman Corporate Vice President and President of the Integrated Systems sector. "NHBB's commitment, innovation, integrity and sustained levels of excellence play a substantial role in our success."

Northrop Grumman Corporation provides technologically advanced, innovative products, services and solutions in systems integration, defense electronics and aircraft, shipbuilding and space technology. NHBB has been a key contributor to NGC engineering in developing products and applications for numerous new programs and is recognized as



Cortland Strong and Walt Sweet accept award.

part of the NGC's Integrated Systems strategic team.

Cortland Strong, NHBB Senior Sales Engineer and Walt Sweet, NHBB Western Region Sales Manager (pictured) were on hand to receive the award.

Photo Credit: Daniel Perales (NGC)