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New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc.  
— A Minebea Company —  
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# inside track



## Diane Mazejka

Inside Sales Representative / Government Contracts Administrator, HiTech Division Peterborough, NH

Years at NHBB: 18½ years

## NHBB In Person

Diane has been with the sales department for over 14 years. Her customer base includes NHBB's authorized distributors and OEM's in California, Israel, and Singapore. She is also HiTech's sole point of contact for Government contracts.

Diane began working in the sales department as an administrative assistant in 1979 and was promoted to customer service representative in 1981. After leaving NHBB in 1983 to raise her family, Diane returned to the sales department in 2000.

Diane's supervisor describes her as being very professional, knowledgeable and assertive. "Besides being very detail-oriented, she is adept at thinking strategically about how to best meet her customers' needs," says Sue Guinard.

What Diane enjoys most about her job is her interactions with customers and peers. "Many aspects of my job require me to build a rapport with people," says Diane. "It is personally rewarding to have a good working relationship with people both inside and outside HiTech." ●

## NHBB Recognized for Exceptional Performance in 2008

For the second year in a row, NHBB's Precision Division was recognized by Kaman Precision Products Fuzing—Memory and Measurement for exhibiting supplier excellence. To achieve recognition, Kaman's suppliers must consistently maintain 100% quality and 100% delivery performance throughout the year.

"We sincerely appreciate the excellence that New Hampshire Ball Bearings displays, not only in quality and delivery performance, but also in the day to day interactions that have helped form our business relationship," said Kaman Precision Products Purchasing Agent, William Daniel.

Kaman Precision Products Fuzing—Memory and Measuring is a leader in the development and manufacture of safe/arm devices, fuzes, motor igniters, and flight termination devices for ordnances and other industries. Kaman's products are found on many of the U.S. Military's missile and bomb systems. ●

## HiTech Hires New QA/QC Manager



Jeffrey Fontaine

HiTech is pleased to announce the hiring of Jeffrey Fontaine as their new Quality Assurance/Quality Control Manager. Jeff has a broad background in manufacturing, particularly within the aerospace, defense, steel production, and water purification industries.

Before joining NHBB, Jeff was Corporate Quality Manager for Barry Controls—Defense & Industry Headquarters. He spent ten years with Huck International, an industrial tooling and fasteners company serving customers in the defense and aerospace markets, where he worked as a facilities engineer, manufacturing engineer, and quality engineer.

Jeff is an ASQ-Certified Quality Engineer and a Quality Auditor. He holds a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of New Hampshire and an Associates in Applied Science in Machine Tool Technology from New Hampshire Technical College. ●

## Fischer Earns Quality Certification

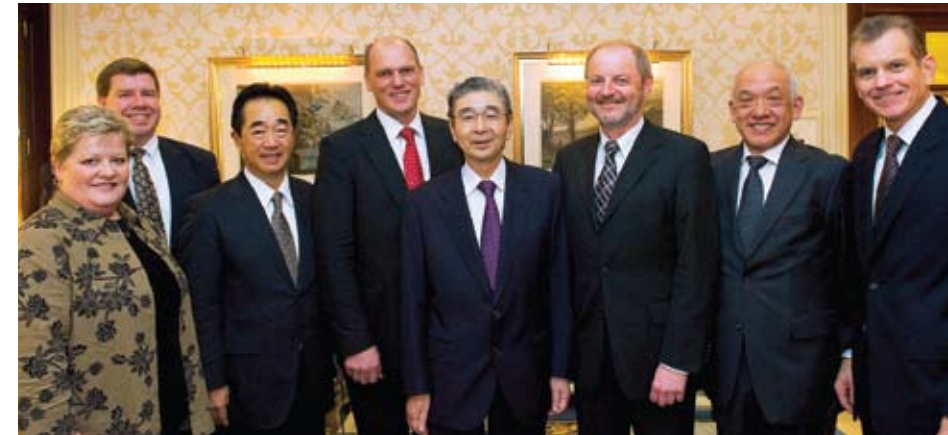


Andrew Fischer

Andrew J. Fischer recently completed the necessary steps to become an ASQ-Certified Quality Engineer (ASQ CQE). Andrew is now formally recognized by the Certification Board of the American Society for Quality for his knowledge of quality engineering principles and practices.

Andrew is a Senior Quality Engineer at the Astro Division. He supervises Non Destructive Testing (NDT) and the Met. Lab, and is the Quality Engineer for both the Heat Treat department and supplier of special processes. Andrew is also responsible for maintaining Astro's NDT Level III certification. He joined the company as a Supplier Quality Engineer in 2000 and was promoted to Senior Quality Engineer in 2007. ●

## NHBB's Parent Company Acquires myonic myonic's US operations moves to Chatsworth, CA



Present at the myonic signing ceremony were company representatives (from left to right): Vice President & General Counsel, NMB (USA) Inc., Reina MacDonald; Director of Strategic Planning & Corporate Development, NMB (USA) Inc., Dan Lemieux; Director and Managing Executive Officer, Minebea Co., Ltd., Mr. Masayoshi Yamanaka; Managing Director, myonic GmbH, Bernhard Boeck; Representative Director, President and CEO, Minebea Co., Ltd., Mr. Takayuki Yamagishi; Managing Director, myonic GmbH, Walter Heilmann; General Manager of Regional Affairs for Europe, Minebea Co., Ltd., Mr. Daishiro Konomi; President, NMB (USA) Inc. and New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc. Gary Yomantas.



myonic GmbH headquarters, Leutkirch, Germany

European bearing manufacturer, myonic, officially became a Minebea Group company on March 5, 2009, approximately one week after the German Federal Cartel Office approved the purchase of myonic GmbH by Minebea Co., Ltd.

In Europe, myonic GmbH will be integrated into Minebea as an independent company overseen by New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc. The current management team at myonic has agreed to stay on to manage the company's day-to-day operations.

"NHBB and myonic are a good fit because we participate in the same markets— aerospace, medical, and dental—which are integral to Minebea's overall growth plan," said NHBB's President, Gary Yomantas. "We are pleased that myonic's management team is staying on. Their presence fosters a continuity with myonic's vision of excellence; a value we share."

Walter Heilmann, one of myonic's managing directors, is confident the integration will enable the company to grow internationally. "myonic has established a position in the market as a highly specialized provider of miniature ball bearings for high-tech

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## Facility Expansion Fortifies NHBB's Ball Bearing Manufacturing Capabilities

NHBB recently converted some existing warehouse space to manufacturing use as part of an ongoing effort to develop advanced capabilities across the enterprise. The new manufacturing center, which occupies twenty thousand square feet of space inside NHBB's facility in Chatsworth, California, has increased the Precision Division's manufacturing footprint by twenty-percent and raised its machining capability from an inch and one half O.D. to three inches.

"Even though we along with our customers face uncertain economic times in the short-term, NHBB's long-term objectives haven't changed," said NHBB's President, Gary Yomantas. "With this expansion, in addition to our investments in technology and a highly skilled workforce, we are striving to create a manufacturing environment that is flexible enough to respond to customers' changing needs."

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- NHBB Expands Chatsworth Facility
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- NHBB in Person

**NHBB's Parent Company Acquires myonic**  
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systems," said Walter. "Cooperation with Minebea and NHBB, and integration in this global group, paves the way for myonic to become one of the top global addresses in this high-tech segment."

myonic's U.S. business unit is now a division of NHBB and operates under the name myonic USA. NHBB has moved myonic USA's operation from Ringwood, NJ to Chatsworth, CA, the location of NHBB's Precision Division and Corporate Headquarters.

Jack Langridge, NHBB's Vice President of Sales and Marketing, avowed NHBB's

commitment to upholding the trust customers place in the myonic brand and to maintaining and expanding myonic's presence here in the United States. "Customers will enjoy continued access to the same great products manufactured by myonic GmbH in Europe and sold here under the myonic name," said Jack. "More importantly, myonic's customers should expect to receive the same high level of service to which they have become accustomed."

myonic's product line is highly complementary to NHBB's. While the two companies share many core competencies related to ultra-precision bearing manufacturing, each company brings its own unique mix of products to the table.

myonic manufactures a full line of metric bearings, thrust bearings, sophisticated X-ray tube bearings, and complete turbine assemblies, while NHBB produces a full line of inch series bearings, ultra-high-speed bearings, apogee® dental bearings, torque tube and thinex bearings, and airframe control bearings.

"The added depth created by this partnership will enable NHBB to offer a broader set of solutions to our customers," said Jack. "At the same time, customers will benefit from the fusion of best practices in precision manufacturing." ●



myonic miniature precision bearings

**myonic — A Profile**

myonic envisions becoming the recognized market leader, preferred partner and supplier of miniature bearings and systems in its chosen market segments and applications. It is committed to delivering best-in-class products and solutions while providing exceptional value.

With over 70 years of experience in the manufacture of miniature precision ball bearings, myonic offers a diverse range of products and services for leading technologies in aerospace, medicine and dentistry.

The company enjoys a leadership position in dental bearings with handpiece manufacturers all over the world, and is a major producer of bearing assemblies for the global X-ray tube market.

Currently, myonic GmbH operates two high-tech manufacturing sites in Europe; one in Leutkirch, Germany, the location of

myonic's headquarters, and another in Roznov, Czech Republic. High-precision component manufacturing, including the production of all special assemblies, takes place in Leutkirch, while bearing assembly takes place in Roznov. The Leutkirch operation employs 230 workers and occupies a 6920 m<sup>2</sup> (22,700 sq. ft.) facility, of which 4560 m<sup>2</sup> (14,960 sq. ft.) is fully climate controlled. myonic's Roznov facility employs 145 workers and occupies a 2080 m<sup>2</sup> (6,800 sq. ft.) of space. Both the Leutkirch and Roznov operations have their own Class 10,000 Cleanroom and are ISO 9001:2000 certified.

To learn more about myonic, visit [www.myonic.com](http://www.myonic.com). ●

**Facility Expansion**  
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A portion of the expansion is dedicated to producing rings up to three inches for NHBB's HiTech Division. This is designed to free up additional space within HiTech's facility so it can continue building capabilities for producing large, complex ball and roller bearings for NHBB's aerospace customers.

The expansion has also facilitated the transfer of a portion of HiTech's manufacturing capacity for middle-size ball bearings to Precision, an initiative that will continue to evolve over the next five years, says Precision's Operations Manager, Paul Spencer. "We plan to expand

Precision's assembly capabilities even further by adopting additional specialized procedures required by our customers in the aerospace industry," said Paul. "This will give NHBB wider latitude in satisfying their needs."

NHBB began renovating the warehouse last summer, and by October, the space was completely enclosed and wired. In December, Precision moved the entire turning department to the new space. New machine centers, which were ordered a year ago, arrived in January and February and are now being installed and configured. Paul expects them to be fully operational by May of this year.

Overall, the expansion has gone smoothly, even during the big move in December. "Despite having moved all of our turning machines, productivity was down only slightly," said Paul. "Our on-time performance to customer was between 98 and 99 percent, an excellent result which is well within our long-term average." ●



Chatsworth's expanded facility

**Astro Configures Cell to Produce Next-Up Assemblies**

A major investment in new equipment and the configuration of a dedicated manufacturing cell has increased Astro's capabilities for producing next-up assemblies and machined parts.

Astro made the investment in response to customers' need for expert bearing installation. According to Paul O'Brien, Astro's Manager of Product Engineering, proper bearing installation can be a chronic challenge for customers. "Installing bearings without damaging the bearing or the housing is an art form in itself," says Paul. He suggests Astro can eliminate potential problems for customers by performing the bearing installation for them.

"With the new cell, we are able to manufacture next-up assemblies in-house, with complete control over bearing installation," says Paul. "This allows us to consistently meet the tight tolerance stack-up requirements between the bearing and housing, and to verify the proper installation with our own custom equipment."

According to Sales Manager, Gino Crecco, the cell is an extension of Astro's commitment to adding increased value to every customer relationship. "By combining our extensive bearing offering with the machined part in which they are installed, our customers gain significant value through consistent product quality, simplified quality control, and improved supply chain efficiencies," says Gino.

The cell, which became operational in January of this year, is equipped with new CNC machining centers, honing, threading and de-burring capabilities, drill presses, enclosed sand-blasting units, as well as a complete set of precision measuring instruments. With the new cellular set-up, Astro has the ability to machine complex parts up to 22 inches long or 20 inches in diameter. ●

For information about the design and manufacture of next-up assemblies and machined parts, please contact the Astro Division at 603.524.0004.



Suspension system damper; fatigue resistant steel, L1291 self-lubricating liner system, copper-based alloy bushings, 16" L when assembled.

**Late Breaking News! SS AS81935 Qualification**  
Astro is now qualified to the AS81935/6, /7, /8, & /9 Stainless Steel Mil Spec Rod End Series. For more information, please contact the Astro Division at 603.524.0004.

**NHBB Again Awarded UTC Supplier Gold**



On February 10, 2009, representatives from UTC visited the Astro facility in Laconia, NH to present NHBB with its second Supplier Gold plaque. From left: Gene Flenke, Pratt & Whitney continuous improvement manager; Anna Patrizzi, Pratt & Whitney procurement director; Mike Andrews, NHBB continuous improvement engineer; and Gary Nelson of NHBB.

For the second year in a row, NHBB's Astro Division was awarded Supplier Gold by United Technologies Corporation (UTC) for its business with Pratt & Whitney and Sikorsky Aircraft.

In 2007, NHBB was only the fifth supplier and the very first bearing manufacturer to earn Supplier Gold. While 35 suppliers were certified or re-certified with Supplier Gold status in 2008, NHBB was one of the few companies to earn Supplier Gold with more than one business division of UTC.

"We are honored to receive this award for a second time," said Gino Crecco, Astro's Sales Manager. "It reaffirms NHBB's commitment to providing superior quality parts, on-time, and at competitive pricing. We have a strong partnership with the UTC divisions, and NHBB is well positioned to grow its business along with UTC in both the military and commercial aerospace markets."

The UTC Supplier Gold program is one of the most comprehensive and demanding supplier programs in the aerospace industry. It is a measure of a company's performance track record with regard to quality, on-time delivery, customer service and the use of Lean tools to achieve continuous improvements. Participating companies are reassessed annually. ●