



New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc.  
A Minebea Company

# inside track

nhbb.com

## Rolls-Royce Recognizes NHBB's Exceptional Service

Executives from Rolls-Royce visited HiTech recently to recognize the company for outstanding service on two engine programs. During a brief ceremony in front of approximately 100 employees, Andrew Draine, Program Director for Rolls-Royce's M250® and RR300 engines, thanked NHBB and its employees and presented a plaque to NHBB's President, Gary Yomantas.

"On behalf of Rolls-Royce, I want to thank New Hampshire Ball Bearings for its exceptional performance in support of the M250® and RR300 helicopter engine programs," said Mr. Draine. "During the past three years, NHBB has demonstrated outstanding, professional, dedicated, and high-quality work. As a result, Rolls-Royce has not missed an engine or spare part delivery, a phenomenal accomplishment for these high-volume programs."

Mr. Yomantas responded by saying, "We are honored for this recognition by one of NHBB's most valued business partners, Rolls-Royce. As proud as I am to be a part of this ceremony, it is our employees who deserve the credit for providing such exceptional service. On behalf of everyone here, I thank Rolls-Royce for this formal acknowledgment of our distinguished service and for the opportunity to participate in the M250® and RR300 programs."



According to Mr. Draine, the bearing products NHBB supplies in support of the two engine programs include more than 43 different part numbers. "It is quite an accomplishment to sustain excellent service levels while supplying such a wide range of products," said Mr. Draine. "NHBB has set a very high standard of performance, for which we are very grateful."

*continues on page 2*

*Executives from Rolls-Royce and NHBB paid tribute recently to their longstanding business relationship. Shown here are (sitting from l to r): Jim Geary, VP of Sales, NHBB; Dave Hinko, Buyer, Rolls-Royce; (standing from l to r) Wayne Armstrong, Buyer, Rolls-Royce; Dan Lemieux, VP of Business Development and Marketing, NHBB; Gary Yomantas, President, NHBB; Terrie Maddox, Senior Sales Engineer, NHBB; Mike Katra, Sales Manager, HiTech Division of NHBB.*

## Inside this issue:

- [Message from the President](#)
- [Pitch Control System Sets Benchmark](#)
- [NewsBriefs](#)
- [NHBB in Person](#)
- [New Director for New Product Development](#)
- [MD&M Trade Show Dates](#)

## NHBB's German Counterpart Initiates New Building Project

myonic GmbH held a ground breaking ceremony a short time ago to kick off construction of a new manufacturing facility, which will increase production space by 20%, or 6,600 square feet. The new facility will be situated on a plot of land immediately south of myonic's corporate headquarters in Leutkirch, Germany.

During his speech at the ceremony, managing director Bernhard Böck emphasized the importance of the new building to the company's future. "We anticipate our sales to increase approximately 20% by the second quarter of 2015," Bernhard said. "The existing plant will be undersized given the expected growth in our business, so it is imperative for us to increase our manufacturing capacity."

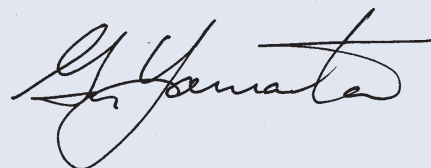
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## A Message from NHBB's President



Gary Yomantas

It's not every day that a customer takes time out from the pressing challenges of the moment to thank us for doing an outstanding job, but Rolls-Royce did just that when they visited HiTech recently to congratulate the division for its "extraordinary service" (front page). Naturally, we are very proud of this achievement. More importantly, we are fully committed to the perpetual advancement of the processes which led to the honor. This requires, among other things, ongoing investments in many segments of the business, including new equipment, additional manufacturing capacity, and innovative new products. We significantly increased our investment in customer-focused R&D at the beginning of this fiscal year by launching the development of a New Product Development Center, which will spearhead product innovation throughout the company. I am pleased to announce that Dick Ray has assumed leadership of this important customer support initiative (page four). As the article on page three signifies, recent investments in R&D have started to bear fruit. NHBB's patent-pending helicopter liner system developed by Astro will provide real cost savings to both rotary wing manufacturers and owner-operators. Another investment-related plan that's underway is myonic's new building project (front page). Because myonic is such a valuable asset to our customers — with a level of expertise in highly-engineered mechanical subassemblies that is unmatched in the industry — the increased capacity the expansion generates will have a positive impact on our ability to serve customers in the US. As these and other stories in this issue demonstrate, we are not resting on our laurels, accolades, or successes of the recent past. Instead, we are setting in motion a number of significant initiatives that will measurably improve our ability to exceed our customers' expectations in the years ahead.



## NHBB's German Counterpart Initiates New Building Project

*continued from page 1*



*Architectural rendering of myonic's new manufacturing facility adjacent to its headquarters in Leutkirch, Germany.*

The new, fully air-conditioned facility will also enable myonic to consolidate production operations at leased facilities and restructure them within the headquarters plant, which will increase efficiency and enhance performance. myonic's parent company, Minebea Co., Ltd., is investing several million dollars in the project. Construction will be completed by the end of 2012.

myonic was acquired in 2009 by Minebea Co., Ltd., and is part of the NHBB/myonic Business Unit. myonic specializes in the design and manufacture of highly engineered mechanical subassemblies and high-precision miniature ball bearings. Its products are used in aerospace equipment, dental instruments, computer tomography and other medical apparatus. In the US, myonic's products are sold through myonic USA, a division of NHBB.

Visit myonic's website, [myonic.com](http://myonic.com), for more information.

## Rolls-Royce Recognizes NHBB's Exceptional Service

*continued from page 1*

The close partnership between Rolls-Royce and NHBB began in 1992 when Rolls-Royce became the launch customer for NHBB's cylindrical roller bearing product line. Sales of NHBB's roller bearings have risen steadily since then to become a significant piece of NHBB's aircraft engine bearings business.

Rolls-Royce is a world-leading provider of power systems and services for use on land, at sea and in the air, and has established a strong position in global markets — civil aerospace, defense aerospace, marine and energy.

### WEB EXCLUSIVE

NHBB offers advanced surface coating solutions on miniature and instrument bearings to improve wear resistance and reduce heat and friction in demanding customer applications. Learn about the benefits of hard, thin-film coatings such as diamond-like carbon (DLC) and tungsten-DLC at:

[nhbb.com/reference/mini-instrument-bearings/hard-coatings.aspx](http://nhbb.com/reference/mini-instrument-bearings/hard-coatings.aspx)

## New Pitch Control Bearing System Sets Higher Performance Benchmark

NHBB's new rotary wing pitch control bearing system (L2010) gives helicopter manufacturers and their customers increased performance while reducing lifetime maintenance and repair costs. The patent-pending solution establishes a performance benchmark for extremely low wear — 0.003 inch or less — over 1,500 hours, and delivers improved resistance to high-alkaline compounds found in most cleaning solutions, which are proven to shorten bearing life.

The L2010 is designed specifically for rotary wing pitch control applications, which enable the individual blades of a helicopter to change their pitch angle in response to pilot input. The bearings found in these systems are under constant use in harsh and aggressive environments.

The ability of NHBB's L2010 pitch control bearing system to resist wear and contamination reflects over 30,000 hours of research and dynamic testing by NHBB's new product development team. NHBB tested the L2010 using the AS81819 fully reversing load spectrum, which included a load greater than 2,300 lbs (1043 kg), a 300 cpm oscillation rate (5 Hz), and water contamination six times per day.

Building on NHBB's commitment to supporting the needs of its aerospace customers, the new L2010 rotary wing pitch control bearing system joins our complete line of bearing solutions for rotary wing aircraft. As NHBB researchers continue their drive to increase bearing system life and performance, our customers continue to benefit through reduced maintenance costs.

**Contact Astro's Product Engineering group for more information.**



## News Briefs

### New Sales Engineer Joins NHBB



Steve Alpers has joined NHBB as the new Field Sales Engineer for the Northwest Territory. Steve is an accomplished technical salesperson with more

than 15 years of experience in the aerospace, medical, automotive, and industrial markets. He is also acquainted with the bearing industry, having previously worked for Torrington and RBC. Walt Sweet, NHBB's Western Region Sales Manager, described Steve as an excellent fit for NHBB, saying, "He is a highly trained professional who has the skills and experience necessary to meet the critical demands of our aerospace customers." Steve earned his BS in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and has lived in the Seattle area for 16 years. He steps into the position vacated by Joe Morrissey, who will be retiring after 30 years of dedicated service with NHBB and NMB. Steve's first day on the job was October 24.

*Steve Alpers*

### Environmental Management Systems Certifications Are Now Online

NHBB's current ISO 14001 Certificates of Registration are now available as downloadable PDF documents on our website. View or download them at: [nhbb.com/about/environment.aspx](http://nhbb.com/about/environment.aspx).

### HiTech Strengthens its Safety and Health Programs



*Kimberly Weeks*

In an effort to move its safety and health programs to the next level of excellence, Hi-Tech has hired Kimberly Weeks to fill the newly created full-time position of safety coordinator. Kimberly is well versed in all aspects of safety and health management. She graduated from Keene State with a BS in safety studies, has acquired her Certified Safety Professional (CSP) certificate, and has extensive experience in manufacturing, including Osram Sylvania in Hillsborough, NH, and Hitchiner Manufacturing in Milford, NH. Kimberly's first day on the job was August 22.

to fill the newly

### NHBB Intern Earns Scholarship

The ABMA awarded their first annual Internship Scholarship in honor of Tedric A. Harris to Abigail Jenkins, a junior Mechanical Engineering student from the University of New Hampshire. Abigail's eight-week internship took place at the HiTech Division in Peterborough, NH. She wrote of her internship at NHBB, "I was able to see first-hand what the manufacturing atmosphere is like. The experience gave me a deeper understanding of and appreciation for engineering."

### Frequently Asked Dental Bearing Questions

NHBB and myonic just published a document that answers the most frequently asked questions about dental bearings like, "What is the advantage of using a hybrid ceramic ball bearing?" and, "What is a lube-free bearing?" The Dental Bearings FAQ flyer is a companion piece to the Dental Bearings brochure NHBB and myonic published earlier in 2011. Dental customers may order the documents by visiting [nhbb.com](http://nhbb.com) or calling **818.993.4100**.



**Cheryl Bussiere**  
 Inside Sales Representative – Astro Division  
 Laconia, NH • Years at NHBB: 24

## NHBB in Person

I work directly with customers to manage their quotations and order entry, and to inform them of part status, billing, and certifications. My customers depend on me to find the correct answers, and they trust I will connect them with the right person if I cannot resolve an issue myself.

My current challenges relate to the way business is conducted today. Many customers expect me to utilize their websites to download quotes, POs, and schedules. For instance, I often download a schedule, add my responses, and upload it back to the customer's website. Some customers even require me to manage their material requirement planning (MRP). My goal is to be well-versed in the different agreements customers now require.

I am thankful for the longstanding friendships I've developed with my customers and peers at NHBB.

For comments or questions about *Inside Track* contact:

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Dick Ray

## Product Development Focus of New Position

Dick Ray has been promoted to the newly created position of Director, Applications Engineering and New Product Development. He is responsible for the New Product Development Center in Laconia, NH as well as for guiding and supporting the applications engineering and product development efforts throughout NHBB. Dick will continue to support HiTech as necessary until his replacement is fully engaged in his previous position.

“As we continue to position our company within the aerospace, defense and medical markets, we are evolving our organizational structure and aligning our resources to better serve our customers within these industries,” said Jim Geary, NHBB’s Vice President of Sales. “Dick Ray’s background and expertise in developing solutions for aero-engine applications makes him uniquely suited to drive advancements in technical knowledge and products in connection with customer applications.”

Dick’s career at NHBB began in September of 1992 when he joined the HiTech Division as a Senior Applications Engineer. Since then, Dick has been a key contributor to the development of NHBB’s aero-engine ball and roller bearing business and several specific product development efforts. Prior to NHBB, Dick worked as a test engineer at Kaman Aerospace Corporation and as an applications and product engineer in the Aerospace Bearing Unit of the Torrington Company. He earned his BS in mechanical engineering from Southeastern Massachusetts University (UMass–Dartmouth).

## MD&M 2012 Show Dates

### Mark Your Calendar

<p><b>MD&amp;M West</b>  <b>February 14–16, 2012</b>  <b>Anaheim Convention Center</b>  <b>Anaheim, CA</b>  <b>Booth #3172</b></p>	<p><b>MD&amp;M East</b>  <b>May 22–24, 2012</b>  <b>Pennsylvania Convention Center</b>  <b>Philadelphia, PA</b>  <b>Booth #934</b></p>
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## Holiday Schedule

**Astro Closed**  
 Fri, 12/23 – Tues, 12/27 and Fri, 12/30 – Mon, 1/02

**HiTech & Precision Closed**  
 Fri, 12/23 – Mon, 1/02

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

