Huron Precision Parts Corp. (HPPC) is born

The newest manufacturing facility from Ogura, Huron Precision Parts Corporation, is currently under construction in Chesterfield, MI. The plant will supply forgings and components for general, industrial and automotive requirements. A key customer for this operation will be Ogura’s Madison Heights facility, which manufactures car air-conditioning clutches. Besides Ogura, the HPPC operation is expected to do a considerable amount of new business as well.

The plant will be completed in October. Machining and preproduction runs will take place through November and December and full production is scheduled in January.

Initial plant layout will cover 174,000 square feet, but with 26 acres of land purchased, there is considerable room for future expansion.

New booth displayed at Louisville Expo

Louisville, KY — OIC unveiled their new multi sided show booth at the Louisville Outdoor Power Equipment Expo at the end of July. The new booth showed the four series of PTO clutch/brakes and clutches that are supplied to the outdoor power equipment industry. Besides complete samples and product cutaways of clutch/brakes, videos were also shown, giving customers glimpses inside Ogura’s highly automated manufacturing facilities. This helped both users and original equipment manufacturers get a better understanding of Ogura’s commitment to quality and design.

Dealers, distributors and end users were very appreciative and complimentary of Ogura’s quality. Besides hearing compliments, Ogura personnel were able to get direct feedback from dealers on suggested improvements. Ogura design engineering personnel were at the show so many of these direct suggestions from the customers are already being worked on in Ogura engineering.

A considerable number of dealers and distributors that were using competitors’ clutches and brakes, asked how they could replace them and purchase Ogura units. OIC’s staff directed them to Ogura’s customers, many of who had their logos on display in the booth, for pricing and availability.
The industry says goodbye to a legend

Louisville, KY — On Saturday, July 21, at the Outdoor Power Equipment Show, friends of Bob Vierck bid him a fond farewell at his official retirement party.

Bob has been working with clutch/brakes since 1952. In 1967 he was involved with the first tests and ultimate production use of an electrically actuated PTO clutch/brake on outdoor power equipment. He has been working for Ogura for the past 28 years to increase customer awareness in both Ogura as a company and the Ogura products. Over the years Bob has seen a lot of changes.

“I have seen many changes in the outdoor power equipment field as new companies have emerged with new products and other companies have expanded their lines through mergers and acquisitions. The basic premise of applying high quality electrically actuated clutch/brakes for safety, fast speed of response, ease of remote control and longevity, still remains a valid choice on lawn and garden tractors. It has been gratifying to see these included in both residential and expanded commercial applications. Working closely with the personnel involved at these companies making lawn and garden products will always be one of the most pleasant memories I will carry into my retirement.”

Bob would also like to pass along personal thanks for all those who gave him the opportunity to work with them.

For his retirement, Bob is planning to spend quite a bit of time with family and friends. But, like he was with Ogura, he always has goals to achieve. His latest goal is going to be shooting his age in golf (77). From what we understand, he is very close to doing this. If you are up in the Oshkosh Wisconsin area, please give Bob a ring. He’s always looking for a fourth.

Bob settles comfortably into retirement

Pictures added to web site Trouble Shooting Guide

In order to help end-users and customers identify potential clutch problems, OIC has added digital pictures to the “Trouble Shooting” section for the mobile and power take-off clutches.

A user simply has to click on the highlighted portion in the “Trouble Shooting” section and a picture describing the type of failure comes up so the user can quickly identify if he has a defect caused by manufacturing, application or an installation problem. To go directly to the “Trouble Shooting” section with pictures, go to www.ogura-clutch.com/garden/technical/trb_chart2.html.

Ogura racing (ORC) goes to Korea

To show the effectiveness of ORC’s racing clutches, Ogura took a Nissan G-TR outfitted with Ogura’s new racing clutch to the Kata drag race in Korea. (Nissan G-TR is the fastest production car made in Japan and can be tuned further to make it into a high performance race car.) The demonstration of this tremendously powerful car with the ORC clutch raised quite an interest from the Korean racing teams.
Hydraulic control systems often use a spool valve for proportional control of a hydraulic cylinder. Ogura has worked with several OEM's to develop an actuator drive system that can remotely control, through a hand held operator, the position of a spool valve. The system allows the operator to get down from the cab of his heavy equipment and observe the work being done for better control of the process. An example would be to control the position of a hydraulically operated lifting boom.

If the remote operator fails for any reason, the actuator control system allows the actuator drive clutch to uncouple the motor from the spool valve drive system. This arrangement allows a spring mechanism to return the position of the spool to a safe "home position" or "zero speed position". In the event it no longer senses the operator, this will prevent the boom from ripping a hole in the side of a building and possibly causing the building to collapse, trapping all the workers inside.

The heart of the control system is an electric actuator which consists of a small DC motor driving a lead screw and nut that is connected to the valve spool. The small DC motor has an Ogura FMC10 model clutch mounted on its output shaft. The clutch drives through a high ratio gear train, which drives the lead screw. The clutch is engaged all the time. The nut on the lead screw can run back and forth along the length of the lead screw depending if the motor runs CW or CCW. The nut is coupled to the positioning shaft, which connects either directly to the spool valve, or for retrofitting an existing application, it can be clamped to the manual operator lever of a valve already used in the application. In the event of lost or conflicting signals from the remote operator, power to the actuator is terminated, the clutch then disengages the motor from the gear train allowing the return spring to move the spool valve to its home position.

Without the clutch, the spring would have to back drive the permanent magnet D.C. motor, which is impossible because of the high ratio.

The Ogura FMC10 is compact in size, (less than 35mm diameter x 27.9mm length), and rated at 8 in lbs. of torque. Ogura also offers clutches of this design for higher torque applications.

Other applications, which also require a similar "disconnect for manual control" option, include large ball or butterfly valves that are used in large process control pipe systems and automatic door systems on elevators, railcars, and buildings and throttle control actuators for large offroad equipment engines and marine engines.
OGURA IN THE NEWS

Timber King's portable saw cuts cost and downtime with Ogura's PTO clutch/brake

In the July 2 issue of Design News the above article appeared showing how Ogura PTO clutch/brakes improved safety and reliability for the Timber King portable saws. Prior to using the electric PTO clutch/brake, the saw blades had to be engaged via a mechanical means, which required the operator to be near the saw. The new mill, with the Ogura PTO clutch/brake, allows the operator to remotely engage the PTO clutch/brake keeping him away from any potential danger.

OIC expands web presence

To help potential customers find information about Ogura faster, OIC has listed its profile information on www.powertransmission.com. This web site focuses on motion control products and will help potential clutch/brake customers find out more about Ogura and also help them find the best product for their application.

Ogura creates new style of advertising

The advantage with the combination electric clutch and mechanical brake of the PTO allows for a quick engagement of the saw but the addition of the mechanical brake allows the saw to stop smoothly and in approximately one quarter of the time than it normally would without a brake.

If you did not get a chance to see this article in Design News, please refer to the Ogura web site under the “What’s New” section for a copy of this article at www.ogura-clutch.com.

For the past few years OIC has concentrated only on direct product advertising. Recently, a new advertising format has been used to try and remind customers that quality in product, design and performance is extremely critical for the operation of their business.

The new advertising will be running in Machine Design and Design News. If at any time you would like to refer to older Ogura ads that have run in the various trade magazines, please refer to the advertising portion of the “What’s New” section on our web site.