

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bushman Equipment Helps Propel Productivity at ZF Wind Power

Butler, WI (September 10, 2012)—Bushman Equipment, a manufacturer of custom-engineered material handling solutions, has completed several projects for ZF Wind Power, LLC, a part of Germany's ZF Friedrichshafen AG, a global manufacturer of automotive transmissions, steering systems, and axles, as well as transmission systems for commercial vehicles, off-road machinery, rail vehicles, marine craft, helicopters and wind turbines. Bushman manufactured this equipment for the new ZF Wind Power factory recently built in Gainesville, Georgia.

Pete Kerrick, President of Bushman, said ZF Wind Power presented his company with "a wide variety of applications, some requiring a clean sheet of paper approach to its material handling." Kerrick added, "These are the best type of partners to work with because they are open to collaboration and that leads to better solutions."

Some examples of the pieces of equipment, both below-the-hook and floor-based devices, that Bushman custom-engineered and manufactured for ZF Wind Power are:

- 1) A unique Adjustable Spreader Beam with a 6.5 ton lifting capacity and a movable lifting bail.
- 2) A 5,000 lb. capacity ID Lifter that lowers its lifting feet down through the center opening of a planetary gearbox housing and then moves the feet outward to get a solid grip from underneath the housing.
- 3) A first-of-its-kind Clamp Arm Inverter with 10,000 lb. capacity. This machine was designed to securely grip the same planetary gearbox housing mentioned above, and rotate it about its horizontal axis to position it for different machining operations.
- 4) A variety of Tongs and Rotating Axis Grabs for lifting gear blanks, machined gears, and shafts. Given the extremely high performance and high quality of ZF Wind Power's gearing, tremendous care in handling is required. With the parts' different shapes, weights, materials and surface conditions, Bushman designed custom gripping pads for each lifter and for specific work cells.

5) A 12,000 lb capacity mechanical upender that tips housings 90° between machining operations.

Gary Rhodes, Bushman's Sales Engineer handling the ZF Wind Power account, said the primary engineering challenge on the Adjustable Spreader Beam revolved around uneven weight distribution and aligning the lifter over the oddly shaped housing's center of gravity; lifting at a 6° angle; and then tipping to level so that the part could be placed into a machining fixture.

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Bushman Equipment Inc. designs and manufactures a wide ranging portfolio of material handling solutions in two product segments: 1) Below-the-Hook lifting attachments including C-Hooks, coil grabs, spreader beams, sheet & plate lifters, lifting tongs, rotating axis grabs and more; 2) Floor-Operated equipment including upenders, inverters, lift tables, mold & die carts, transfer cars and more. Founded in 1950, the company is located in Butler, WI, just outside Milwaukee and has 38 employees, including 20 skilled craftsmen and 9 engineers.

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