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MODIFIED EX-STOCK GEARS BOOST SPEED AND EXTEND LIFE

Faster performance as well as increased capability and service life have been achieved by a new drive system on the upgraded Cavity Auto Scanning Laser System (C-ALS®), a core product for York-based Measurement Devices Limited (MDL). Several of the transmission components that complete the drive system were supplied by R. A. Rodriguez, including KHK spiral bevel gears. These were speedily modified from stock items for MDL's use, a service for which KHK via R. A. Rodriguez, is now the market leader.



C-ALS® is a miniaturised, ruggedized 3D laser scanning system designed to survey remote, inaccessible voids and cavities, safely. The motorised 2-axis scanning head ensures a complete 360° scan covering the entire void to a range of 150m/500 feet. Its probe incorporates pitch-and-roll sensors and has the option of an internal compass. These sensors ensure accurate orientation and positioning of the scanned point cloud. A system of lightweight 1m rods provide a fixed azimuth and enables easy deployment down hole, up hole or horizontally.

In the process of developing a new generation of cavity scanning system, MDL has been working closely with R. A. Rodriguez on the selection and supply of a number of components for a much improved vertical drive system. Modified KHK spiral bevel gears were an important element in the design, products for which R. A. Rodriguez is KHK's European master distributor.

These high precision, strong gears have high load ratings and run at speed with minimal noise and vibration, important performance factors for MDL. Options include fully hardened keyways and pilot bores that allow additional customer modification. MDL took advantage of this facility without incurring any compromise on lead time.

Steven Ball Snr, MDL's Chairman concludes: "The new, drive system allows the probe to scan four times faster than the previous unit. Its capability and service life is also increased many times over. The combination of a more robust drive system with C-ALS® improved ingress protection opens up the product's use in a number of new markets."

-ENDS-

R. A. Rodriguez has over 40 years experience in the supply of precision components to manufacturing industry in the UK, Ireland and Scandinavia. This ISO 9001:2000 company acts as factory representative for a number of the world's leading component designers and manufacturers. Its product programme falls into five divisions – bearings, linear motion, aerospace, conveyor equipment, gears and associated products. R. A. Rodriguez bearing products include the world-renowned Kaydon Reali-Slim® and Ultra-Slim® designs. In the linear motion field, R. A. Rodriguez supplies a range of solutions from components and sub-assemblies through to complete turnkey systems.

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