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AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD ENGINEERING TECHNICAL DIVISION

## Technical Visit to David Brown (Thailand)



by Ir. Kumar Subramaniam  
*Chairman, AFETD*

A technical visit was conducted by three engineers to David Brown (DB), a gear reducer unit assembly plant in Bangkok, Thailand on 13 and 14 August 2010.

The visit was made to review the plant facilities, to cross check on the quality of gear units being produced and to have technical discussion with the Manufacturing Division head on type and models being widely used in the Palm Oil Industry. Such gear reducing units are being widely used in the industry, which include the Palm Oil Mills, the Kernel Crushing Plants and the CPO (Crude Palm Oil) refineries.

The visit started with the introduction presentation by Mr. Gareth Thomas, the Manufacturing Manager, followed by visit to the Assembly Plant, the Tools Division, the QC (Quality Control) Department, the Design Section and finally the Packing and Delivery section.

David Brown commenced business in 1860 as a general pattern maker and the core business at that time was the production of patterns for the manufacture of cast gears. They have now been at the forefront of the engineering industry for 150 years and famously known for their DB series for Austin F1 Race team. In 1997, David Brown (Thailand) acquired the Powauto factory which was built in 1992 by Powauto. The plant in Thailand is a world class manufacturer and supplier of geared motors and it is also capable of sub-contracting jobs on machining and assembly of industrial components. David Brown Radicon supplies products and services for a host of industries, such as Cement, Food and Beverage, Material Handling, Mining, Oil and Gas, Power Generation, Quarrying and Water Treatment Plant. They offer a wide range of repair services and they can boast many years experience of repairing transmissions in numerous industries that were demanding and highly critical technically. Their current repair expertise can be applied to the simplest transmissions to the most complex drive arrangements of all makes and types. In addition to repairing gears and transmission products, David Brown Radicon offers a full range of technical services from identifying the root cause of any production problems to recommending the optimum solution.

The technical discussion held was centred on common production problems, down time due to drive system failures, maintenance of conveyors and elevators and the suitability of using other type of gear units in the industry, as replacement units. Stocking of required common spare parts in the work shop, to ensure low down time and optimum productions in any manufacturing plant, was also discussed.

The visitors were treated to lunch and dinner prior to their departure to Kuala Lumpur the next day. The visit has provided the engineers valuable experience and exposure on how Gear units are being assembled, and on the design and operational aspects involved in the productions. The engineers were grateful to DB Bangkok Plant operators for making the visit most fruitful. ■