The Driving Force
IMS GEAR IS AMONG THE LEADING companies in Gear Engineering - with global footprint, consistently innovative and interacting constantly with customers.

Around 3,400 highly motivated people work worldwide to enhance our customers’ competitiveness - with new gear toothing solutions, optimized modules or gears, made on highly efficient production lines developed in-house. We realize both standard components and complete gear solutions at the highest level - from the design stage to development, production and logistics. We keep on setting new standards, not only in the automotive industry.

Gearing solutions are today fundamentally important in many applications - and getting more important still as many hydraulic or pneumatic systems are being replaced by electromechanic drives. And because we tune into technical changes at the earliest possible stage, we are always positioned to offer new solutions which our customers need and which we permanently adapt, fine-tune and update. This is where we use our competence in material science which allows us to realize solution-driven material combinations.

Thinking ahead

"Gear wheel and gearing engineering is our competence - from development right through to worldwide production."

Norbert Willmann, former managing director at IMS Gear GmbH

Established more than 150 years ago, we have since grown steadily, based on consistent customer orientation, proven competence in problem-solving, quality and flat hierarchies. This course and these values will take us to a positive future - a future where gearing engineering will develop its enormous potential, also for applications unknown of today.

WE ARE MOVING FORWARD.
In the markets - for the markets

**WE TAKE CUSTOMER PROXIMITY** in the literal sense of the word, seeing that short distances are still an important success factor. This is why we think globally and operate in every important market with our own production sites - this allows us in short time to implement changes in concept or quantities into the production processes. Just-in-time in the NAFTA countries is as much a matter of course for us as it is in the Far East or in Europe.

Our international position allows us to go one crucial step further: all our locations and sites are capable of starting to make new products almost in parallel.

This capability is due to the standardization of our processes. Without much adaptation efforts, we can transfer whole production lines to other sites, combining flexibility with robust processes and leading to the same high quality level worldwide.

The backbone of our global activities is our site in Germany where we develop, verify and validate our processes and where we make our tools. This means that, in essence, all our products are always "Made in Germany".

We define Components as individual parts made of metal, plastic or composites of both. We manufacture components for our Actuators and modules and as customized single parts in high unit quantities.

**COMPONENTS**

Modules consist of several assembled Components, functioning only as parts of bigger units.

**MODULES**

Actuators, assembled by us, are integral and fully functioning products, designed as ready-made units including electronic interfaces.

**ACTUATORS**
UNLIKE MOST OTHER companies in the industry, we are highly vertical integrated from the production of special tools and plastic injection molds right through to the final assembly of modules and gear unit. Production itself includes plastic injection molding with or without metal components, as well as metalworking including heat treatment. This puts us in a position where we can make both complex and less complex parts in high volumes and short leadtimes without having to rely on external partners.

ACTIVELY PRODUCING in all regions, we are aiming to be close to our customers who benefit from a consistent and high level of quality and shorter time-to-market. Once we have established standardized processes, we are able to quickly transfer these to all sites.

When we develop innovative drive solutions, we use our profound knowledge in Gear Design, materials, or the special dynamic behaviour of certain gear drives. With this special knowledge we are capable of adapting gear wheels to specific stress and load situations, e.g., by using asymmetrical tooth shapes. This also holds for the selection of materials or their combinations: metal-plastic composites are one of our core competencies.

Knowledge of the Fundamentals constitutes the basis for developing customized and application specific Components, Modules and Actuators. By this we not only mean realizing predefined technical and commercial requirements, but also adapting to restricted space or to special stress and load scenarios. Product development for us means exact dimensioning, Tooth Design and material selection for an optimal finished product. Within our competence string, we verify the practical feasibility of a product.

As a manufacturing company with an integral approach, we place the greatest importance on establishing reliable processes. We design all product-specific processes ourselves and test and standardize these. This is the condition for duplication - and therefore for quality, flexibility and cost efficiency.

Our way to the product: a string of competence sections which our customers can book either as partial sections or in total.

Our enterprise gathers an exceptionally broad range of knowledge and skills in Gear Engineering. These competencies can be utilized individually or in combination.

Placed in sequence, these competencies result in a logical string of individual stations. Depending on their specific requirements, our customers can board at every station or book partial sections or the whole line on the way to the finished product.

The ultimate goal is to realize solutions with maximum customer benefit. And this is what distinguishes us from the many only production-oriented suppliers in the industry.

Our competencies - milestones for your success
Products which move

GEAR ENGINEERING IS A DISCIPLINE always looking for new solutions, modifications and adaptations. Our product portfolio ranges from individual gearwheels and housings right through to preassembled modules and complete actuators.

Meeting the specific requirements, we choose between metallic materials, technical plastics or plastic-metal composites.

Both for single Components, Modules and Actuators, we meet basic requirements such as cost optimization, functional reliability and system integration capability. With our solution driven and integral approach, we are able to generate potentials for optimization at all stages - from engineering to production. This is the point where our high vertical integration pays out. The same holds for our assembly skills which already come to bear in the concept development for Actuators and Modules to contribute towards the overall optimized solution.

DRIVE COMPONENTS MADE OF METAL are still an indispensable element of any drive solution. This is why metalworking is one of our most important production competencies with a rich heritage.

We rely both on well-established metal cutting and forming machining techniques, as well as on heat treatment processes. As we also make the necessary tools in-house, we are able to respond quickly to technological innovations and integrate these in robust processes.

TECHNICAL PLASTICS have become well established in state of the art Gear Engineering, combining high precision, economy, complex design possibilities and a choice of materials matching application specific requirements. Our injection molding machines process reinforced and non-reinforced thermoplastic materials next to high performance plastics or thermoplastic elastomers - in molds we design and make in-house.

Moldmaking is the basis for high precision and flexibility in production, optimized for high volumes.
Safety through transparency

We make Actuators and gear drive Components for sensitive and safety-critical applications in vehicles — for instance for steering or brake systems or for seat adjustments.

Steering and braking systems or horizontal seat adjustments are among the safety-relevant applications in cars. This means that all these products and its components must also comply with special safety requirements in terms of design, validation, production and documentation.

Our standardized and transparent processes are the guarantors for the reliable compliance with safety-relevant specifications. In addition: we are capable to introduce optimizations such that weight reduction and safety will not collide. To do so, we make specific use of metal and plastic material combinations.

Thanks to our degree of automation and high vertical integration, our safety-relevant components are individually identifiable and can be traced right back to the material batch - naturally also for Components made of composite materials.
HOW WELL A MODULE, an Actuator or its Components will meet the specified requirements is usually decided as early as at the development stage. Our specific knowledge and many years of experience dealing with Gear Engineering related topics give us the edge to design, validate and optimize gear solutions at the earliest possible stage.

Depending on the individual customer requirements, we can either support our customers in their in-house development or take over the development based on a specification as a total package. We use our own test laboratory to verify the concept for its functionality and feasibility, supported in parallel by the latest in simulation tools. The test results and data are directly used to optimize the product design, the choice of materials or the serial production.

With the final product our customers get a solution which addresses economical part design, process and functional requirements in the best possible way.
Focus on people

BEING AN INNOVATIVE COMPANY with great growth potential, we depend on our highly skilled and motivated people. Ultimately, it is our people who ensure the success of our company and of our customers. This is why we invest heavily in qualifications, apprenticeships, specialized technical in-house trainings, trainee programs and in cooperations with universities. We are always looking for people who want to experience our value-driven corporate culture rich in tradition and willing to learn - in production as much as in development or sales.

STRENGTHENING THE COMPETENCE of our people is an essential element of our corporate strategy. Flat hierarchies and an open culture of communication promote and support the personal development - also at the international level: Changing from one site to the next, whether temporarily or permanently, is an option open to every one of our associates and opens up entirely new perspectives.

Our sites and locations also boast a high quality of life. Our headquarters are in immediate vicinity to the Black Forest with its fascinating landscape and leisure offerings. Good schools and the residential infrastructure make IMS Gear a highly attractive option for families. And it goes without saying that our company also offers identity, financial security and opportunities.

Hand in hand to success
Future founded on tradition

IMS GEAR STARTED MORE THAN 150 YEARS AGO as a precision engineering supplier for the regional clock and watch industry. Even back in those days, the company already made its own special tools to manufacture the watch and clock components. This core competence has been kept up to this day and is the platform for the innovative Gear Engineering solutions which have gained so much in importance about 50 years ago.

AS IN THE PAST, IMS GEAR IS AN INDEPENDENT business anchored in stable shareholder structures. Sustainability and openness for change are the central aspects of our strategic activities. Our structures are not set in concrete, adapting instead to the requirements of customers and markets. This is also part of our company’s success factors and is also the starting point for steady growth. Our people and our customers alike enjoy the certainty and reliability which characterize a business with a sense of responsibility.

1863
Gearwheels for the Black Forest watch and clock industry

1970
From the Gearwheel to the Actuator

1980
Plastic Injection Molding

1992
Going global with a focus on the automotive industry

today
Gearwheel and Gear Engineering. Worldwide.

Contact

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