

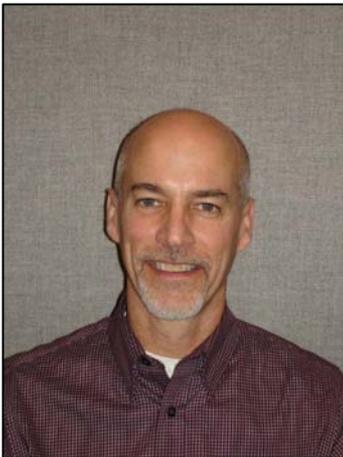
May 2012

## Congratulations to Jaime Spagnoli

ELGI 2012 Best Paper Award

Presented at our 24<sup>th</sup> AGM Munich Germany

The ELGI Best Paper Award committee is pleased to announce that this year's award for the best paper will be presented to Mr Jaime Spagnoli (ExxonMobil Products Research & Technology – USA) for his paper on “False brinelling test (Riffel) for wind turbine grease”.



Jaime received his B.S. in Engineering Technology from Trenton State College, New Jersey. He has spent thirty-five years working at ExxonMobil in technical services and lubricant research and development with over 25 years of experience in grease R&D. He is currently working as a Senior Researcher in the Industrial Lubricants & Grease Section at ExxonMobil Research and Engineering. He is a member and active participant in STLE, NLGI and ELGI activities and past Chairman of ASTM Sub Committee G. He is the recipient of the NLGI Chevron Author award in 2010. He is an NLGI Certified Lubricating Grease Specialist (CLGS).

## Synopsis

The Riffel test has been developed to simulate the bearing conditions seen in wind turbine applications. In particular, a common finding is that blade bearings require specialty greases to protect against false brinelling, which is a result of frequent vibration and limited distribution of grease in the bearing. In addition, wind turbine applications are exposed to wet environments as more off-shore wind farms are established. Based on its intended application of being able to simulate these harsher environments, the Riffel test has become a key performance requirement for obtaining wind turbine builder approvals. The Riffel test is a fretting wear and corrosion test where a stationary ball bearing is subjected to an alternating load while an aqueous solution is injected into the bearing. After completion of the test, the bearing is analyzed for wear scar depth and a visual corrosion rating. This presentation will review the operating parameters of the test.