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A new look for Tubetoday. Our website change, is renewed. Articles, editorials, news in real time during fairs or events. Among the new features of the dedicated columns: in addition to the different special for each issue of the in-depth sections.

tubetoday

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EDITORIAL

The gradual implementation of the vaccination campaign throughout Europe and the United States is in some way fostering optimism for the future in the industrial sector as well. The companies involved in this sector, in any case, had never stopped, except in the first months of the pandemic, and this meant that the industrial sector was the driving force for the great recovery of the third and fourth quarter of 2020. A recovery that, of course, was not enough to compensate for the drop in turnover, production and orders: according to the statistics of Cecimo, the European Association of Machine Tool Manufacturers, production in 2020 fell by 26%, returning roughly at the values of 2009-2010, the lowest point of the financial crisis of the last decade. If we add to this figure that a decline in the production of machine tools had already been recorded during 2019, it can be extrapolated, with a motivated conviction not to deviate excessively from reality, that, beyond the pandemic crisis, the contraction of production, already underway, is partly due to the conclusion of the expansionary phase of an economic cycle. It is, in fact, very likely that the effects of the pandemic and the blocking of many activities were felt to a more marginal extent on the industrial sector than on other sectors of the economy, more aimed at the consumer.

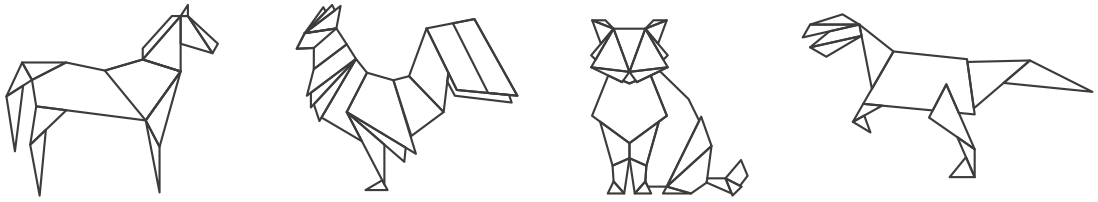
Of particular note is the jump in demand from Italy in the fourth quarter, with a sensational + 347% in orders compared to the same period of 2019. A sudden growth, followed by a rapid decline in the third quarter, which did not prevent a -28% in the year.

What will be in the coming months depends in part on the progress of the health emergency, but only in part: if it is true, as it is true, that the industrial sector is less involved in containment measures and therefore is less affected by trend, the growth in the coming months will certainly be such as to allow a return to the levels of the end of 2018 in orders and production, but it could also represent the beginning of a new economic cycle, perhaps shorter than the previous one, which lasted just over ten years. If this is the case, after a surge between 2021 and 2022, we can expect a period of substantial stability or even a slight contraction until 2023.

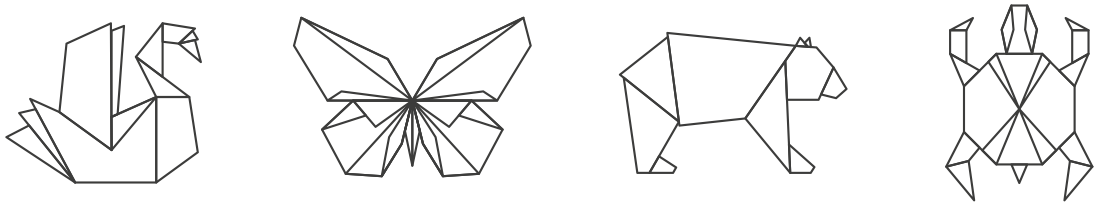
It is also true, however, that the effectiveness of statistical models in the presence of a situation such as the current one, whose last precedent is a century ago, is not so clear: the recovery in consumption, on the one hand, and the slowness immunizations in fast-growing countries may represent discriminating factors which, at this time, we are unable to assess correctly.

For now, we welcome with enthusiasm the probable reopening of the fairs in attendance, starting with Made in Steel and Emo, in the autumn. It will be a bit like waking up from a long sleep and you will forgive us if, meeting us in the stands, we look at each other as the survivors do.

N° 80 - 2021



COMMUNICATION
GETS A GOOD SHAPE



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R.T.S.

Written by: Mr. Giovanni Teolis

Steel will be green and good for all

At a time when the price of raw materials in the steel industry has skyrocketed, there is news from Sweden of a possible revolution in the steel industry. The day seems to be getting closer and closer when it will no longer be possible to use coal and its polluting emissions to make iron and therefore steel.

For several years now, some steel producers have been making a serious effort, through investment and research, to completely eliminate carbon emissions from their production. This is not only an ecological effort, given the heavy environmental impact of this type of industry, but also an economic one, in the conviction that in the long term, breaking away from coal can only bring significant benefits. This is a real revolution because it calls into question the steel industry's age-old dependence on coal, an element that has always been indispensable for the production of steel, one of the most widely used materials at every latitude on the planet. It is coal, its heating and chemical reactions, that have always enabled the creation of steel, an alloy of iron and other metals. Pure iron being a difficult element to find and extract in nature, coal became essential to obtain it.

Another factor driving this solution is the need to comply with international agreements. The Paris climate agreement in 2015 set precise global targets for reducing pollution (not only from carbon), committing the countries that signed that pact to reduce emissions and with them the temperature. All by 2050. Finding an alternative, less polluting method, thus enhancing the value of that agreement and considering it truly binding, will be essential, not least in the light of the forecast made by the International Energy Agency which, looking ahead to 2050, has stressed that global demand for steel will increase by more than a third, with direct consequences on environmental impact.

In Sweden, the company SSAB has long been investing funds to find an alternative way of doing away with coal. SSAB, which produces around 8.8 million tonnes of steel each year at its production plants in Sweden, Finland and the United States, has invested in a technology that uses clean hydrogen - electrolysis - instead of metallurgical coal to create steel. The company produced a special sample, without the need for coal, a year ago in a laboratory at Stockholm University. Like carbon, hydrogen is capable of removing oxygen from iron ore to make the pure iron needed in steel production.

SSAB's investment is aimed at the forthcoming and planned closure of all coal-dependent furnaces. The fact that this goal is anything but distant or utopian is also demonstrated by the opening of a "green" pilot plant in the summer of 2020. The Swedish steelmaker is not content with this and has now set another ambitious goal: to bring this new type of "green" steel to market for the first time in 2026. The company went on to say that with this innovative strategy it aims to reduce carbon pollution in Sweden by 10% and in Finland by 7%.

But how much does this next revolution cost? What makes the difference is the perspective. In the immediate future, everyone, including promoters and researchers of green steel production, have never made a secret of the higher cost of this technology: one estimate is that the new methods could affect production

by between 20 and 40 per cent more than coal. In the long term, however, the gap is destined to narrow, close and even reverse. In fact, many are ready to bet that this technology will become the most competitive. The price of steel without fossil fuels is set to fall as the cost of emissions rises: coal is set to become more and more expensive, and this will have the effect of reducing the cost of green energy. Of course, much depends on the farsightedness of governments, who can influence the market with special incentives, but the market already seems "fertile", as demonstrated by the existence of several companies that, in need of steel, have begun to indicate their willingness to produce low-carbon materials. This is a signal that cannot be ignored, because it demonstrates that a paradigm shift is possible, that a revolution is just around the corner. It is easier to do when the market comes knocking.

R.T.S.

Written by: Aldo Drappero

Augmented reality: the future of the industry

Augmented reality is increasingly in our lives and in our works, in fact, in addition to the optimization of processes and the introduction of new improvements in terms of efficiency, augmented reality will also be used to "capture" some traditional skills in the field of pipes that could be lost if the knowledge of older workers were not retained before their retirement.

The Materials Processing Institute, a British research and innovation center serving the world's steel and materials organizations working with advanced materials, low-carbon energy and circular economy, is now giving an entire industry the opportunity to explore how augmented reality can be applied and developed in a real steel mill without the potential disturbance and cost of testing it in your own facilities. This means significant time savings and a substantial removal of the initial expense, which could act as a barrier to entry for companies in the sector, which still need to be encouraged to adopt digital.

Ptc, one of the world's leading authorities on the Industrial Internet of Things, has joined forces with the Materials Processing Institute to explore the potential of augmented reality. The project will initially use Vuforia Studio technology to superimpose real-time data, taken from the ThingWorx industrial platform. Augmented Reality is expected to make it easier for staff to have the right information at the right time, while the use of HoloLens and RealWear glasses will allow the individual to have both hands free to complete tasks. Successful implementation of digital technologies will have potential savings of tens of millions of pounds each year.

Ptc's Vuforia software, with Vuforia Expert Capture, allows operators and technicians to film their daily tasks in step-by-step instructions. Information that can

then be made available to newcomers or people who change roles within the company, in order to have practical experience via devices such as mobile phones, tablets or computers. In addition, for troubleshooting, there is also live 'on the job' support: Vuforia Chalk. Using mobile devices, digital glasses or sitting at a desk, experts can connect with employees and customers on-site and off-site and collaborate in real time. This mechanism is very useful for learning from tests and identifying the best use cases for materials and machinery.

The ultimate goal is to have case studies on how steel and metallurgical companies can optimize processes using augmented reality, as well as protecting vital skills for the steel workers of the future, including pipe work, providing a range of solutions, technologies to help industrial companies create value.

According to a report that studies the market for stainless steel pipes and tubes, at present, worldwide, there is a very low concentration in the sector of stainless steel pipes. Among the major manufacturers: ThyssenKrupp, Tenaris, Pohang Iron & Steel (Posco), Baosteel and Centravis are the top five largest manufacturers worldwide and approximately 7.94% of the total products are made by these five companies. Worldwide

AUGMENTED REALITY WILL ALSO BE USED TO "CAPTURE" SOME TRADITIONAL SKILLS IN THE FIELD OF PIPES THAT COULD BE LOST IF THE KNOWLEDGE OF OLDER WORKERS WERE NOT RETAINED BEFORE THEIR RETIREMENT.

stainless steel pipes were worth approximately $ 35,270 million in 2019. According to estimates and forecasts, the market size will reach $ 46,880 million by the end of 2026, growing at a Cagr of 4.1. % during the period between 2021-2026.

Also for these reasons, implementing augmented reality in this sector can only give further value to the sector and further increase this industrial sector.

CURIOUS NEWS

FROM THE WORLD

From outdoor pipes to hanging gardens: an idea of hope coming from Mantua

A beautiful story of hope, to restart on the right foot after difficult months, comes from Mantua. The protagonist is Massimiliano Caltagirone, manager of the Libenter restaurant and cocktail bar, in the beautiful Concordia Place. In recent months he has transformed the outdoor area of his restaurant into "the Cheshire Cat forest" - as he himself defines it - by climbing ivy, bougainvillea and vines on 40 innocent polished pipes, filling the space with flowers and plants (surfinie petunias, almond laurel) and transforming huge wooden reels into tables.

Helped by friends and professionals, the "Maci" took advantage of the months of closure to transform the outdoor space of the restaurant into "a message - reads the Gazzetta di Mantova - that I want to send to colleagues and to the city: the Innocenti tubes that make up the dehors tell a path of rebirth after suffering, flowers and plants are the beauty from which we must start believing, counting on our abilities».

Then is also "the right of first refusal at auction to become the permanent owner of the place I have been managing for 18 years", but the message of hope and the idea of transforming the bare pipes of an outdoor area into a hanging garden are fine beyond the boundaries of the city of Mantua.

In Bruges a beer pipe

In Belgium beer "flows freely". This is a fact. The image has become literal in Bruges, thanks to the operation launched by the local craft brand De Halve Maan (the only plant still active in the historic center), which has created an underground pipe, about 3 kilometers long, which carries 1500 liters for hour from the laboratory to a bottling plant located in the suburbs.

The project (almost 4 million euros, of which 10% comes from collective funding) has an ecological purpose, as it replaces the daily passage of about 500 trucks through the narrow alleys of the medieval urban core, a Unesco World Heritage Site since 2000.

Are you looking at the hair? The romanesco, the wine and… the tube

«Aho, what are you looking at at the hair?». One of the most used and iconic expressions of the Roman dialect - reserved for those who, with an excess of stubbornness, stick to a small, negligible detail - has nothing to do with hair. Rather, it has a correlation with the wine and the tube.

It is a way of saying that was born between 1500 and 1600 in the taverns, where the Romans gathered to drink wine served in terracotta or metal containers: it is difficult to understand how much liquid the host actually poured, hence discussions, quarrels and fights. So much so that in 1588 Pope Sixtus V, to put an end to the scuffles, replaced the terracotta and metal containers with glass jugs, transparent, classified according to their size: the tube (1 liter), the leaflet (1/2 liter), the quartino (1/4 liter), the chirichetto (1/5 liter) and the sigh (1/10 liter). The amount of wine to be poured was indicated by a line engraved in the glass and this line in jargon was called precisely "the hair".

CURIOUS NEWS

Does coffee clean the sink pipes?

Do you feel a little guilty when, in the morning, you throw the leftovers of the Moka into the sink to load the good morning coffee pot? Do you think that a virtuous citizen would throw them in the separate collection, wet sector?
Well, stop feeling guilty, indeed you are doing the good of your pipes without the need to resort to liquid plumbing or similar products, which are much more polluting. The powder and coffee grounds, mixed with an intense flow of warm water, contribute to the cleaning of sinks and drain pipes. Then, if you also have a vegetable garden, the coffee grounds are also perfect as a fertilizer for fruit trees.

How to counteract the condensation that forms on the cold water pipes

Humidity in the home is one of the most annoying and difficult to solve domestic problems, often causing real damage to walls. In summer, it causes condensation that forms on the cold water pipes, which - if uncovered - "sweat" to form drops of water.
The cold water pipes generate condensation due to the difference in temperature, the same reason why if we leave a glass of beer frozen at room temperature, drops of water will soon form outside. But if in the case of beer a coaster is enough to solve the problem, in the case of pipes the matter becomes more complicated.

How to solve the problem? First, by lowering the room temperature, including by using an air conditioner. The other factor is the humidity of the air, which can be counteracted by using an electric dehumidifier, which captures the humidity present in the air and collects it in a tank. Attention, you can also "build" a home-made dehumidifier with two containers in malleable material, such as plastic or wood, and some coarse salt. You need to pierce the smaller container, fill it with coarse salt and place it inside the larger one: the salt absorbs the moisture from the air, which then drips through the holes into the larger container.

Drain pipes become dry food and water dispensers for stray dogs

Once they were simple pipes attached to houses, those plastic pipes that carry wastewater from the gutters to the drains in the street. Today, once abandoned, they do not fill the landfills but have become dispensers of food and water for dogs, strays looking for a meal or even domestic ones who want a snack.
It happens in Somma Vesuviana, thanks to the original idea of the "Cani di Somma" association. "Through recycled material - they explain from the association - we are able to give life to what was once waste, transforming it into something useful, dedicated to our four-legged friends".
Each station, set up with the collaboration of the municipal police, is monitored by volunteers. One tube is for water, the other for croquettes. Citizens will also be able to help replenish them at regular intervals. "A gesture of humanity - commented Rosalinda Perna, councilor with responsibility for straying - but at the same time very useful".

NEWS

FROM THE BUSINESS WORLD

Aratubo and the search for new materials to make vehicles lighter

Aratubo is a company that is constantly innovating and committed to continuous improvement. The work carried out by its R&D department is fundamental to its value proposition. Its team of qualified people is immersed in the development of new products with which it aims to meet the needs of the most advanced sectors.

In fact, the company is focused on expanding its range of precision welded steel tubes by researching different thicknesses and sizes, alternative materials and processes that add value to production.

And so, in order to meet market needs and increase competitiveness, the company is working hard:

- studying the possibility of producing welded tubes with more stringent requirements than those established by the standards;
- working to gain in-depth knowledge of cutting-edge products, processes and sectors;
- establishing partnerships with leading-edge material suppliers and technology centres or laboratories.

Within this general framework, two projects that deserve special mention have been developed, aimed at developing new materials to make vehicles lighter. The implementation of this improvement in the global transport network will lead to a lighter and more efficient fleet, which will result in lower consumption and therefore a smaller carbon footprint through reduced emissions.

Through the HYDRODP project, technological progress is being made with Dual Phase steel. The main challenge of this project is to provide a solution to the demand for lightweight tubes for hydroforming processes.

On the other hand, Aratubo is participating in a large research consortium, ACPRESS, led by Gestamp together with others from the automotive industry, in order to implement solutions based on numerical process modelling. Both projects, due to the quality of their approach, are co-financed by the Basque Government and the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-2020.

Belgrave & Powell Completes Another Acquisition : Sharpe Tooling Limited

Belgrave & Powell Limited, a specialist engineering services group announce with effect from 6thMay 2021 to have acquired 100% of the shares of Sharpe Tooling Limited based in Birmingham, UK. The new acquisition will form part of Belgrave & Powell's Machine Technology Group (MTG) which comprises some of the leading UK specialists in high quality machine tool

products, robotics, fabrication and automation covering a wide variety of applications for Rail, Aerospace, Food, Pharma, Gas Turbine, Oil & Gas, Energy and Automotive sectors.

The new Sharpe Tooling acquisition follows the retirement and planned closure of the Birmingham site by the founder Stewart

NEWS

Sharpe. Founded in 1988 by Stewart, Sharpe Tooling has built up a high quality customer base for bend die tooling which post acquisition fully complement Belgrave & Powell's subsidiary business, Addison Forming Technologies Limited. Terms of the deal have not been disclosed however following completion, the entire business has been relocated successfully to MTG's Preston facility with the creation of an additional 6 jobs in high precision tool making and further investment by the group in capital equipment.

The acquisition represents the 5th SME deal by Belgrave and Powell Ltd within 18 months whose focus is UK based specialist engineering services with activities including machine tool services, fabrication, tooling manufacture and distribution.
The group operates from facilities in Preston, Tamworth, Rochdale & Plymouth. Businesses in the group include Weld UK, Dean Smith & Grace, GAC Rail, Techni-grind, Maydown International, Addison Forming Technologies, Trufab Technologies, Autotech Robotics and now Sharpe Tooling.

CADENAS 3DfindIT.com equipment models integration accelerates engineering efficiency for AVEVA E3D Design users

Seamless, free access to thousands of manufacturer catalogs directly within AVEVA's 3D modeling software.

AVEVA and CADENAS have joined forces to integrate the CADENAS technical search engine, 3DfindIT.com, into the AVEVA™ E3D Design system in the process plant and marine industries. This new, free plugin will provide users of AVEVA's 3D design solution with the ability to select accurate equipment models from thousands of manufacturer catalogs and integrate them directly within their computer aided design (CAD) software environment, saving hours in design time and costly rework. "This partnership transforms engineering processes by accelerating the detailed design phase of industrial capital projects and the development of Engineering Digital Twins," says Amish Sabharwal, Executive Vice President of the Engineering Business at AVEVA.

CAD models available in just a few clicks

The 3DfindIT.com plugin deploys intuitive search methods including 3D geometric similarity search, sketch search, color search, and function search, are specially tailored to the needs of CAD users.
With the integration of 3DfindIT.com into AVEVA's 3D design suite, users will no longer be required to spend hours surfing the web to find and verify the parts they need for their plant or ship design. Instead, engineers can quickly configure the desired components individually and capture the CAD & Building Information Modeling (BIM) equipment models directly into their existing designs with just a few clicks, all within a fully integrated design environment.

In alignment with AVEVA's and CADENAS' shared ambition to accelerate industrial digital transformation, this new offer will provide a step-change in engineering work processes by improving overall engineering efficiency and accuracy and ultimately helping the customers deliver industrial capital projects around the world on-time and on-budget.

NEWS

Manipulators for forging press and ring rolling mill

Dango & Dienenthal: New order for two heavy-duty manipulators. Successful project coordination exclusively via online channels.

Dango & Dienenthal has received an order from Chinese thyssenkrupp rothe erde (Xuzhou) Ring Mill Co. Ltd. (XREM) to supply two manipulators for a new ring rolling facility in Xuzhou. The heavy-duty robot ordered by XREM will be one of the most powerful of its kind in the world.

XREM, a subsidiary of thyssenkrupp rothe erde, is going to produce seamlessly rolled rings for large rolling-element bearings on its new mill. The production line will include several chamber-type forging furnaces, an open-die forging press that will produce the ring blanks, and a ring-rolling mill facility incorporating several intermediate reheating furnaces for the rolling stock, and, finally, a heat treatment facility.
The two machines to be supplied by Dango & Dienenthal will perform all handling operations for the blanks and the rings – from the acceptance of the cut forging ingots up to and including the delivery of the finished rings to the heat treatment facility.
A unique feature of this project is that all planning activities and negotiations during the summer and autumn of 2020 were performed in online meetings.

Heavy-duty robot SLR 150 H
The heavy-duty robot of the SLR 150 H series to be supplied to XREM will combine two functions within one machine: Firstly, as a heavy-load robot, it will perform the handling of the forging ingots between the transfer tables, the chamber furnaces and the open-die forging press. Thanks to the pre-programmed sequences of motion, very short transfer times will be achieved. And, secondly, during the forging process in the open-die press, the robot will take over the function of a forging manipulator.

Designed for a payload of 150 kN, this robot will be one of the most powerful machines of its kind ever built in the world. As a rail-bound machine, the manipulator will handle the forging ingots and position them in the press with the highest precision. Operation of the manipulator during the forging process will be via remote control from the control room of the forging press. While operating as a forging manipulator, the robot will be coupled with the control system of the press.
Arno Dienenthal, one of the Managing Partners of Dango & Dienenthal Maschinenbau GmbH, is convinced that his company received this order last but not least due to a previous, very successful reference: "For many years, a similar robot - also with a payload of 150 kN - has been in operation at thyssenkrupp rothe erde in Dortmund, Germany. The good experience made with our heavy-duty robot over so many years was certainly a supporting argument for the customer to decide in favor of Dango & Dienenthal again. Another reason for XREM to choose us as their partner in a project of such scope was most likely our experience and good reputation as a supplier of machinery for rolled ring production."

After completion of the forging process, the mobile transport manipulator MTM 600 will take over the pre-punched ring blanks and place them in the ring rolling mill – via intermediate reheating in a chamber furnace, if required. Then, after completion of the rolling process, the manipulator will take the finish-rolled rings to the cooling beds.

The Diesel-powered machine will be designed also for a payload of 150 kN. Its gripping tongs will be able to handle ring diameters of up to 2,600 mm.
Both machines will be ready for delivery to XREM in early 2022.

NEWS

SIMEST Fund: 3 June sees the reopening of non-repayable loans/ contributions valid for participation in EMO MILANO and LAMIERA

The date of reopening of the SIMEST 394/81 Fund, which grants subsidised loans/contributions for the internationalisation of companies, has finally been announced.
Published in the Official Gazette no. 80 of 2 April 2021, the communiqué of the Facilities Committee for the administration of the 295/73 Fund and the 394/81 Fund, confirming the reopening, as of 3 June 2021, of the activity of receiving new applications for subsidised loans/non-repayable contributions for the 394/81 Fund.
If you are interested, please apply immediately on the opening date; with these SIMEST facilities, companies can now also cover all expenses to participate in the International trade fairs: EMO MILANO 2021 and LAMIERA 2022.

Probest Service S.p.A., a company for business development and innovation, is available to process applications.

EuroBLECH launches brand-new Digital Innovation Series for 2021 - First event in April focusses on Forming Technology

EuroBLECH is launching the Digital Innovation Series 2021, providing an essential marketplace and business platform for the international sheet metal working industry which has been impacted by the on-going Covid-19 crisis. The event series will deliver a set of targeted curated digital events to allow companies from across the globe to come together on one platform to exchange knowledge and expertise, discover innovations as well as conduct business meetings to discuss manufacturing solutions. The series of events will take place during the course of this year.

The organiser of EuroBLECH, Mack Brooks Exhibitions, has announced a new online event series for the international sheet metal working community. The event series provides a dedicated virtual market place for innovative manufacturing solutions, knowledge transfer and worldwide business contacts on a brand-new online platform. The EuroBLECH Digital Innovation Series is a much-anticipated trade and networking event for the global sheet metal working community, presenting a broad programme for trade professionals including virtual product presentations, expert webinars, and a new meeting option. Visitors can participate for free and register online now.
Hosted online from 27 – 28 April 2021, the first event of the Digital

Innovation Series will be focussed on Forming Technology including Sheet Metal Parts & Materials as well as Tool Technology and will offer visitors the opportunity to discover latest developments and innovations of exhibitors. A webinar series will address challenges and provide fresh

NEWS

inspiration to boost productivity and efficiency, increase margins and present new technology solutions.
"Following the launch of the EuroBLECH Digital Innovation Summit in October last year, we have listened to the feedback of all participants. Many wanted to see more targeted content and a much clearer focus on products and innovations", explains Evelyn Warwick, Event Director of EuroBLECH. "Hence, with the launch of the brand-new Digital Innovation Series, we are acting upon the feedback we have received, with three curated digital events. The first one is set to take place in April, with a spotlight on forming technology. Visitors will be able to participate in live product presentations, arrange meetings and use a new chat functionality to get in touch with suppliers. In addition, a webinar programme focussed on forming technology will provide latest insights into this technology sector", continues Evelyn Warwick.

EXPLORE & DISCOVER, CONNECT & ENGAGE and LEARN & INSPIRE: Digital Innovation Series offers three-in-one experience
The EuroBLECH Digital Innovation Series Event in April is a two-day online trading, networking and webinar event for professionals from the entire sheet metal working technology chain. Visitors can virtually meet relevant technology suppliers, watch informative product presentations, follow talks and webinars on current industry issues, and ultimately source the best technological solutions for their manufacturing processes.

EXPLORE & DISCOVER: Product Showcases and Exhibitor Directory
The Exhibitor Directory offers an easy starting point to browse the full EuroBLECH Digital exhibitor list by name. A simple click leads to further exhibitor information, including product showcases, product videos, contact information, and more.

CONNECT & ENGAGE: Networking and Virtual Meetings with Suppliers
A new matchmaking system helps suppliers and buyers make smart networking decisions by suggesting relevant people to meet. Participants can tailor their networking activities by requesting and pre-scheduling their meetings before the event. Arranging a meeting is very easy and intuitive, with no third-party software required. A new chat function allows visitors to get directly in touch with exhibitors.

LEARN & INSPIRE: Daily Webinars on the latest industry and technology trends
A daily programme of webinars by industry experts provides an opportunity to gain useful insights into the latest market developments as well as technical expertise concerning new industry applications and solutions in Forming Technology, including Sheet Metal Parts & Materials as well as Tool Technology. Further details on topics and speakers will be published soon.
Further information is available at www.euroblechdigital.com.

Absolute Scanner AS1

The state-of-the-art 3D laser scanner for measuring arm and tracker, manual and automatic
The Absolute Scanner AS1 is the prestigious 3D scanning sensor for the Absolute Tracker AT960 and Absolute Arm 7-axis systems. Using blue light laser technology and advanced programming, it combines the highest performance available with ease-of-use, to offer high-throughput non-contact 3D measurement. Thanks to an innovative concept of modular multi-platform technology, the same scanner unit can be used on both portable measuring arms and laser trackers, without the need for realignment when switching between the two.
The AS1, equipped with our innovative SHINE (Systematic High-Intelligence Noise Elimination) technology, has no hidden settings that limit the speed and width of the scan line to provide maximum accuracy. The AS1 delivers full performance all the time: maximum frequency and maximum laser width for maximum productivity. High-speed 3D scanning is not accompanied by performance degradation on any surface, whatever the finish or material. With a very wide horizontal laser scan line and fully automatic exposure settings, 3D digitisation with the Absolute Scanner AS1 is faster, easier and more accurate.
Disassembling the AS1 is as simple as flipping a switch to mount it on another reference device, or in the case of the Absolute Arm,

allowing easier and safer access to the contact measurement function in hard-to-reach areas. It can then be refitted without the need for recalibration thanks to its repeatable attachment. Simply re-attach it and continue 3D scanning.
To interface with the Absolute Tracker, the Absolute Scanner must be combined with an Absolute Positioner AP21 unit, which provides the necessary 6DoF reference. The AP21 allows the AS1

to provide high accuracy, with an error of only 50 microns over the entire measurement range, up to 30 metres from the tracker.
The AS1 is also automation ready when integrated into a laser tracker controlled system. Its high-speed data acquisition capability is ideal for keeping pace with the speed of modern robotic systems, allowing them to be fully utilised to increase throughput, while its high standoff makes automation safer with less risk of collisions.
The Absolute Scanner AS1 represents the pinnacle of 3D scanner technology for portable measuring arms and laser trackers. It is the most advanced portable measurement solution for components of any size. The future of 3D scanning is AS1.

DAC and Hexagon together for the Smart Factory Valley

Campania is building Italy's most digitised aerospace supply chain

Campania's aerospace supply chain is working to become the most digitised in Italy. It is using the period of economic crisis generated by the pandemic to invest in growth and new skills. It is doing so through a collaboration between DAC, the Campania Aerospace District, and Hexagon, a world leader in sensors and software for smarter production.

The aim of the collaboration is to offer new opportunities and skills to the SMEs in the aerospace industry that are part of DAC. The DAC management team and Hexagon's Manufacturing Intelligence division are working together to support SMEs in using this pandemic period for active resilience, optimising production processes with digitisation and staff training, so that when the crisis generated by the pandemic is behind them and production and employment resume, Campania will have the most digitised supply chain in Italy to respond quickly and efficiently to the needs of the global aerospace market.
The news emerged during a visit by DAC president Luigi Carrino to the Italian headquarters of Hexagon's Manufacturing Intelligence division in Pomigliano D'arco, in the province of Naples. During the morning, the President of the District and a delegation from DAC attended several demonstrations of the innovative technologies, machines and sensors that Hexagon has been producing for 200 years with a constant drive for innovation.

"Hexagon is an extraordinary, attractive and growth- and competitiveness-enhancing innovation and progress story," said Luigi Carrino, DAC president. "The fact that Hexagon has decided to set up a technical-application centre in Campania with a configuration that spans all stages

NEWS

of the production process for its existing and potential customers means that Campania's aerospace sector is a leading one, and its structuring in the form of a District facilitates relations between companies and the transfer of technology."
"We have signed an agreement to make the Campania aerospace supply chain the most digitised in Italy, so that it can use the crisis as an opportunity to relaunch itself," continued Carrino. "Hexagon's headquarters is a valuable place to experience first-hand the advantages that the use of these technologies can bring to make companies more competitive. To be successful, supply chain projects must involve SMEs and I am proud that this Hexagon centre was born in Campania. We are happy to help populate it with entrepreneurs, business technicians and all those who can use these technologies to grow".
"The idea is to create in Campania a 'Smart Factory Valley' - said Armando Mete, Senior Regional Sales Manager of Hexagon's Manufacturing Intelligence division, during the visit - every company in Campania that will become part of this Factory will enjoy new opportunities, will be a step ahead in digitalization and will have more opportunities and competitive offers on the international market, presenting itself within a highly innovative network."

DAC, Aerospace District of Campania

DAC - Distretto Tecnologico Aerospaziale della Campania S.c.a.r.l. was established on 30 May 2012 as part of the National Operational Programme "Research and Competitiveness". It brings together players operating in the fields of Research, Development and Training for Aerospace.

Campania is one of the few regions in Italy that can boast an interest in aeronautics and space that dates back almost 100 years and which, from the years of the space race onwards, has led to a widespread involvement of the entire region. Today, the Campania Aerospace District DAC has 193 members, 79 of which are direct members, including large companies, SMEs, 10 universities and research centres, and 114 SMEs, grouped together in consortia, in a system that links companies and the world of research.

Defence, space and aeronautics are at the heart of the project activities developed by the Campania Aerospace District, together with technological innovation with frontier projects for general commercial aviation, space and carriers, but also maintenance, transformation and support for members to be competitive both nationally and internationally.
For Campania, the DAC represents a fundamental step towards the creation and management of an industrial network model capable of designing competitive solutions and offering them on the market at national and international level.
The DAC pursues all its objectives from a meta-district perspective. It is one of the founding members of the National Aerospace Technology Cluster (CTNA). It has also implemented important actions to ensure its involvement in the most prestigious national and international aerospace platforms, such as: ACARE Italy, the SPIN-it Space Platform, the European Aerospace Cluster Partnership (EACP) network. In 2016, DAC was awarded the "Bronze Label" certificate of excellence by the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA), an agency appointed by the European Commission to assess the quality and performance of technological districts on a continental scale. DAC is currently the only Italian district to enjoy this qualification.

NEWS

The 'twin' of Michelangelo's David created using Hexagon scanning technology unveiled in Dubai

The artwork is located in the Theatre of Memory at the Italian Pavilion at Expo Dubai

A 3D printed copy of Michelangelo's famous David, digitised with the use of Hexagon scanning technology, was unveiled last week during a ceremony at the Italian Pavilion at Expo 2020 in Dubai.

The event was attended by Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Luigi Di Maio, UAE Minister of State for Tolerance, Ahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of State for International Cooperation and CEO of Expo 2020 Dubai Reem Al Hashimy, and Minister of Culture and Youth, Noura Al Kaabi. The so-called 'Twin of David' will be the highlight of the Pavilion's Theatre of Memory.

The creation of the copy posed numerous challenges, not least the size of the original, which is more than seven metres high and weighs over five tonnes. Scanning this iconic sculpture took 10 days and the work of two people. The use of two Hexagon technologies, an AICON StereoScan neo structured light scanner and a Leica Absolute Tracker handheld scanner, ensured optimal accuracy despite the complexity of the challenge. The mix of these two technologies was key to achieving the best result; the laser tracker, which is typically used to measure precision aerospace components, is able to achieve high accuracy over large areas, while the structured light scanner is able to achieve even higher resolution when focusing on small areas. This tool was therefore used in particular for the more detailed elements of the sculpture, such as the face and hands. By combining these technologies, the team was able to achieve an optimal compromise between size and resolution.

Nevertheless, there were a number of additional challenges to overcome. For example, a distance of 80 cm between the scanner and the statue was required to achieve optimal accuracy. This was particularly difficult when trying to capture hidden parts. In addition, due to the height of the David, the scanners had to be mounted on special supports and lifted, after which the team analysed the image to check resolution and accuracy, and repeated the operation if necessary.

At the end of the Expo, the digital twin of the David created by the scanning process will be analysed for further information. The extraordinarily detailed data will reveal, for example, the effects of acid rain on the sculpture, dust and even traces of the different tools used to create it. This information can be used by experts and restorers to preserve the David and other iconic pieces of art, anticipating and preventing deterioration.

It is envisaged that even more accurate scans of the David and other iconic artworks may be carried out in the future. This latest project follows a similar one completed by Stanford University in 1999, which took 22 people a month to scan at a lower resolution. As the technology develops, it is hoped to achieve an even higher level of accuracy.

"Scanning the David presented a number of challenges," says Cesare Cassani, Automation Technologies & Portable Systems Manager, Manufacturing Intelligence Division at Hexagon. "Not only was the scale huge, but the time constraints were also tight, and we had to overcome a number of obstacles during the course of the project." Specific parts such as the inside of the hands and the area underneath the bent arm, for example, proved particularly challenging, as did capturing all the imperfections that David had accumulated over the years."

"The opportunity to be part of the team that worked on this project is not only a high recognition of Hexagon's technology and expertise in digital transformation, but it is also a source of pride for us to contribute to scientific research and the dissemination of culture and art around the world," says Levio Valetti, Marketing and Communications Manager, Hexagon Commercial Operations Italy.

The reproduction of Michelangelo's David is a project jointly promoted by the Italian General Commissariat for Expo 2020 Dubai, the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze and the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering 9 of the University of Florence.

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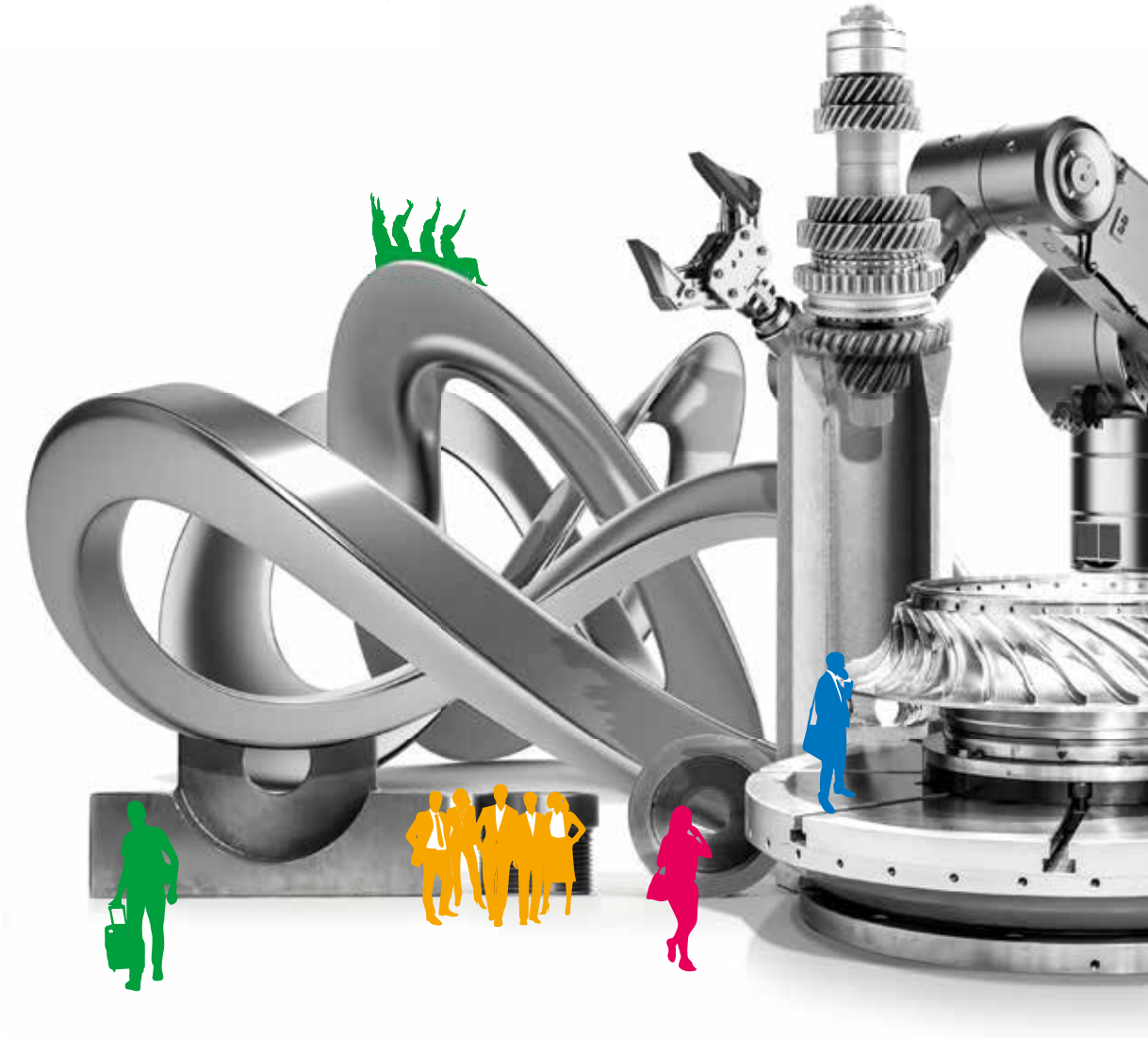

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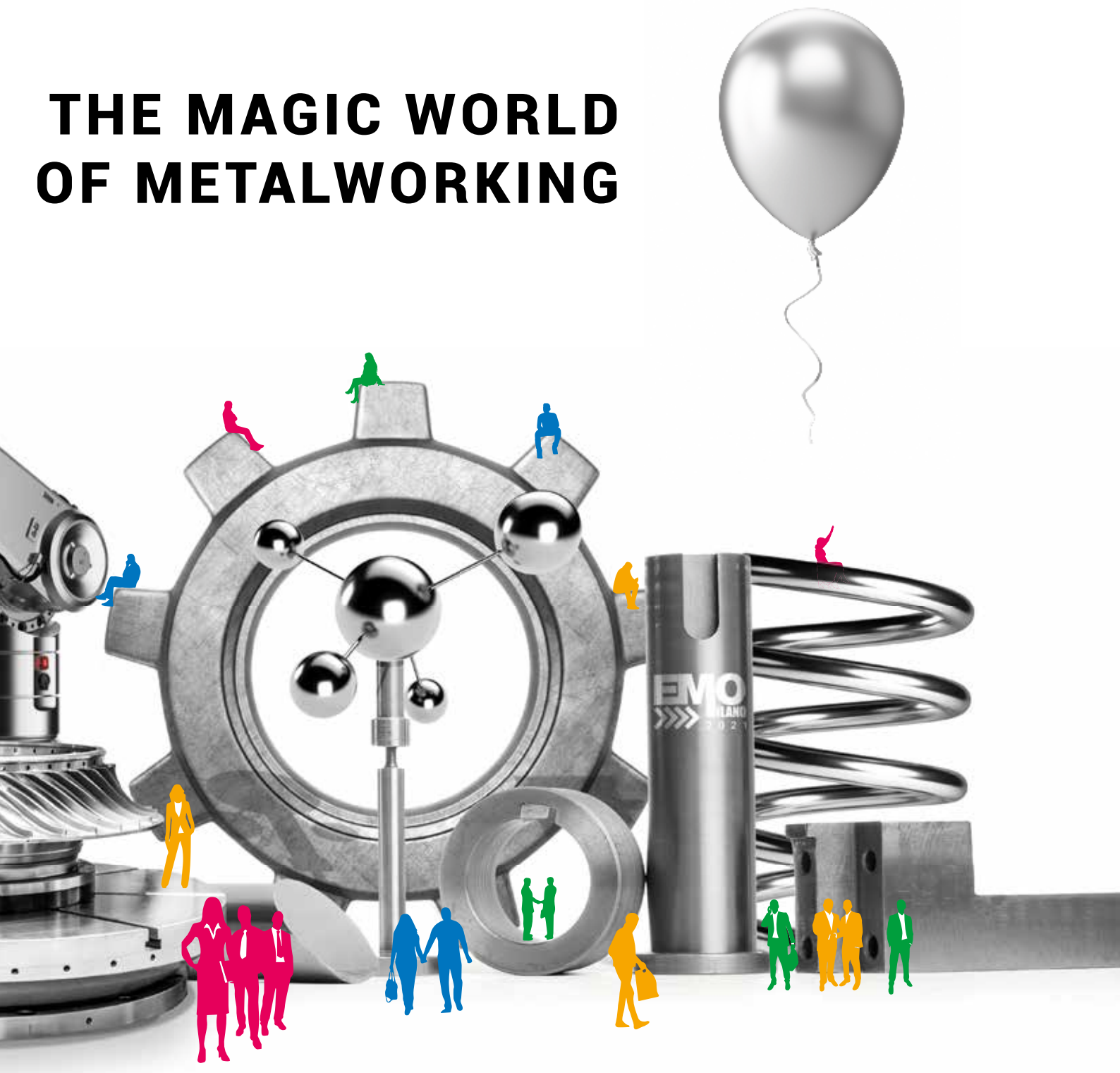

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NEWS

RWC presents SharkBite Air & Pneumatics, the innovative range of push-fit brass fittings for compressed air and pneumatics

RWC is expanding its range of reliable, sustainable and efficient push-fit solutions for compressed air and pneumatics with the new SharkBite Air & Pneumatics brass quick connect fittings.

Specially designed for medium to large commercial and industrial applications, the SharkBite Air & Pneumatics push-fit system is ideal for heavy-duty applications, supporting pressures up to 20 bar, exceeding market standards and giving installers peace of mind. It addresses common industry concerns such as long installation times, pipe corrosion, pressure drop and leakage leading to higher energy costs.

Available in sizes ranging from 10mm up to 54mm, the SharkBite Air & Pneumatics range of quick connect couplings - including a 45° elbow to improve airflow and reduce pressure drop - ensures fast and reliable connections. With one simple operation, a perfect joint can be made, without the need for tools, silicone, hot work, welding or glue. SharkBite Air & Pneumatics push-fit couplings use a combination of 'grip+-seal' technology: the stainless steel ring, which grips the hose, plus the O-ring, providing a hermetic seal. In addition, the tamper-proof design ensures safe disassembly, making system extensions and modifications quick and easy. Designed to firmly crimp anodised aluminium pipes, this innovative range is also compatible with painted aluminium, copper, PEXa and nylon pipes.

"Typically, customers who have opted for copper and steel compressed air installations face a number of performance issues. These systems are susceptible to corrosion and degrade over time, causing leaks and pressure drops, which have a major impact on energy consumption, equipment life cycle and efficiency," said Fabio Bellini, Business Specification Manager, Reliance Worldwide Corporation.

The new SharkBite Air & Pneumatics solutions complement John Guest's range of John Guest branded plastic push-fit fittings designed for small to medium sized applications up to 10 bar, such as garages and small commercial premises. Both plastic and brass push-fit systems meet the need for flexibility as layouts in factories, buildings, etc., need to adapt and change faster than ever with minimal downtime. All John Guest and SharkBite compressed air systems can be easily dismantled, extended or modified, making life easier for installers, improving the efficiency and performance of systems and reducing installation time by up to 50% compared to traditional methods.

Bellini added: "With SharkBite Air & Pneumatics and John Guest Compressed Air, we have two reliable, first-class push-fit solutions to suit all compressed air and pneumatic applications. Downtime will be a thing of the past, and the system can be reconfigured in seconds, rather than hours or days."

NEWS

John Guest launches its innovative range of transparent direct buried fibre optic fittings

John Guest fittings, featuring revolutionary push-fit technology for simple and secure installation, exceed industry standard for impact resistance.

John Guest, part of the RWC Group, pioneers in Fluid Technology with over 70 years of experience, introduces its new range of direct buried fibre optic fittings. Unique to the market, these fittings are designed to withstand high loads with an impact resistance of 30J, an industry first.
John Guest fittings seal pipes tightly and an optimised borehole provides a smooth, uninterrupted path for the fibre bundle, ensuring successful microduct installations even in the most challenging conditions.

John Guest's passion for quality and innovation has led to the creation of revolutionary, compact and transparent design fittings that provide unparalleled impact resistance - 30J - twice the industry standard, to ensure exceptional, long-lasting technical performance and offer complete peace of mind that the system, once buried, will remain intact and unaltered underground.

John Guest's innovative push-fit technology ensures quick and intuitive installation, without the need for tools. The tweezers with stainless steel inserts provide instant grip and a tight seal on the micro ducts, further strengthened by internal O-rings. In addition, when repairing or extending the network, the JG straight connector for blown fibre directly underground offers superior flexibility. The transparent body allows engineers to easily inspect the connection and fibre passage, and tool-free disassembly allows the system to be quickly reconfigured at any time, avoiding damage to the microduct or fitting.

JG's range of straight fittings for direct-burial blown fibre is the first and only one of its kind on the market. With international patents pending, it is already available in several sizes, from 7 to 20 mm.

"We are seeing an increasing demand for reliable data and bandwidth, even more so following the Covid-19 pandemic" - said Antonio Maione, Attorney at JG Italy and Director of Sales & Marketing at Reliance Worldwide Corporation. "With the new fittings, John Guest is in an advantageous position to support the industry and meet the needs for faster deployment and effective and safe installations right away."

A pioneer in the development of push-fit fittings, valves and tubing, John Guest is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2021. To date, it manufactures and markets approximately 2.5 million fittings each year, helping to provide high-speed internet to millions of homes and offices.

Mr Maione added: "Our latest technologies have enabled us to achieve an industry-leading impact strength of 30J. We continue to invest in research and development to shape the future of FTTH/FTTP installations with the aim of making life easier for installers, reducing connection problems and ensuring maximum long-term reliability for all our customers."

NEWS

Always stay in motion

"Mechanics in Motion" – this is the slogan of Mechtop AG from Wangen near Olten in Switzerland. The company specialises in systems, components and services, mainly for the food industry. The individual orders differ greatly, so a high degree of flexibility is the order of the day. Mechtop recently gained much higher levels of efficiency and performance in its production and intralogistics by purchasing two automatic tower storage systems and a band saw machine from KASTO.

The demands on the food production industry are extremely high, with strict hygiene standards, fierce international competition and time and cost pressure to match. Manufacturers must be able to deliver their products reliably and in perfect quality at all times; otherwise customers will quickly lose confidence in a brand. It follows that the machines and systems used must also meet special requirements. Malfunctions and system failures can lead to expensive downtimes – and this is unacceptable, especially when handling perishable food.

The Swiss company is very familiar with the conditions in the industry. Founded in 1995 as a one-man business, the company now has 50 employees and specialises in plant & special machine construction, pipe & steam-line construction, metal & steel construction, tank & apparatus construction and conveyor technology. Most of Mechtop's customers are from the food industry. The company also provides support for its customers in installation, maintenance & servicing and spare parts supply. "Our motto is 'Mechanics in Motion' – and it refers to both our product range and our competent and flexible service staff," explains Dominic Felice, a member of the Management Board.

Production schedules are often tight

In addition to the team that works for and with Mechtop's customers throughout Switzerland, the company's machinery is also an important mainstay for its continued success. "We mainly manufacture one-offs, as well as small and very small batches," explains Felice. "This is often the case where spare parts are needed urgently, for instance." To meet these demands, the company needs powerful machines that are versatile enough to efficiently deal with a range of usage scenarios – and the same applies to Mechtop's internal logistics: "We try to make every process as efficient as possible, from the delivery of raw materials to the shipment of our finished products," says Felice.

The most commonly used materials at Mechtop are stainless steels, since the finished systems and components must be suitable for use in hygiene-sensitive food production. The company processes sheet metal and bar stock such as rods, tubes and profiles. In the past, both of these types were stored in manually operated cantilever storage facilities. "However, this was extremely time-consuming and laborious," says Felice. "The employees had to first of all search for the required articles and then painstakingly remove them by hand or forklift." Mechtop therefore decided to modernise and automate its storage technology – and the company opted for the compact

NEWS

KASTOecostore and UNITOWER tower storage systems.

KASTO's solid reputation was already well known

The sawing and storage technology specialist company based in Achern in southern Germany had been a household name to the Mechtop decision makers for some time. "KASTO has an exceptionally good reputation and its products are synonymous with reliability and high quality," says Felice, explaining the decision. "We looked at various potential solutions together with KASTO and then selected the most suitable one." Both storage facilities are space-saving tower storage systems with a loading height specially designed to meet customer requirements. The UNITOWER is equipped with 108 storage cassettes for holding bar stock up to six metres in length. The cassettes are lined with aluminium for the storage of the rust-free materials. The KASTOecostore has 26 pallet storage shelves with space for sheets with formats up to 3 x 1.5 metres.

The two tower storage systems are attached to the outer wall of Mechtop's production hall. The shelf block of the UNITOWER was designed with a substructure to which the roof and façade panels were attached. The system was installed in a pit 3 metres in depth, enabling optimal space utilisation despite the officially limited building height. The bar stock storage system has an external goods delivery station which can be directly accessed by the delivery trucks. Sheets are brought into the hall through a roll-up door and transferred to the internal storage and retrieval stations. A hoisting device then automatically brings the pallets and cassettes to the correct storage compartment and makes the required articles available in line with the "goods to man" principle. An additional hoisting device such as a forklift truck is not required to retrieve the system pallets. This ensures short access times and an ergonomic workflow.

More space and a better overview

"The automatic storage systems offer us a whole range of advantages," explains Felice. "We've gained a lot of valuable space, a better general overview of our inventory and more control over our stocks – and we can also work more productively and much more efficiently." The tower storage systems are extremely robust and reliable – and on the very rare occasion when a malfunction does occur, the KASTO experts in Achern can usually repair it quickly and easily via remote maintenance. "As a rule, however, the system runs flawlessly – not least thanks to its

NEWS

touch display and simple operation," says Felice. "Inventory management is done in SAP. Our two storage facilities are not connected to the SAP system. KASTO would also have made this possible, but given the diversity of our orders and the small batch sizes, this step didn't seem necessary to us."

The two KASTO storage systems have been in operation at Mechtop since the beginning of 2020. The company also invested in a KASTOmicut A 2.6 automatic band saw. It is designed to efficiently process cut-to-length and mitre sections of tubes, profiles and solid materials. With a cutting range of up to 260 millimetres in diameter and infinitely adjustable mitre angles from -45 to +60 degrees, the swivelling-frame band saw offers users enough scope to cut a wide range of different components. The intelligent additional equipment also enables largely unmanned operation: "We mainly use the KASTOmicut to process parts in small and smallest batches up to about 20 pieces," explains Felice. "We particularly benefit from the automatic material feed, because it means that the saw can process batch orders like this independently." The sawn sections are then transported via a chute to a bin where they can be collected by the employees.

A totally convincing, complete package

The blade tension of the KASTOmicut is electrically monitored and can be continuously adjusted by means of a manual ratchet. Hydraulically actuated, continuous horizontal vices enable optimised workpiece clamping and make it possible to separate short residual pieces. An integrated sensor automatically detects the end of the workpiece, so no manual pre-settings are necessary. The heavy cast iron saw frame also ensures high-quality cutting – even in the case of materials that are difficult to cut. The KASTOmicut is extremely precise, with a cutting accuracy of +/- 0.1 mm per 100 mm of material height. The shortest possible cutting length is only 6 mm – and with a residual length of 30 mm for individual offcuts (and 40 mm for automatic operation) Mechtop can make maximum use of their material. "KASTO has really supplied us with a complete package that makes our daily work much easier," says Felice.

The management at Mechtop is also completely satisfied with the cooperation of the sawing and storage technology specialist company. "The short reaction times are certainly a major advantage – KASTO's Swiss branch in Rheinfelden is only a few kilometres away," he explains. "Service technicians and spare parts are with us in no time at all when we need them." This is a unique selling point with which Mechtop also impresses its customers. "KASTO solutions help us to respond flexibly and quickly to their requirements and solve their problems – and that's exactly what our 'Mechanics in Motion' slogan is meant to convey."

NEWS

Unique trade fair feeling in digital form. METAV opening today on the web

A tour of the fair just shows what is possible online

The METAV digital opens its doors at exactly 9:00 this morning after weeks of preparation by the 80 exhibitors and the METAV organiser VDW (German Machine Tool Builders' Association). "Of course, this opening time is only symbolic, as we can be reached 24 hours a day from all over the world," says Stephanie Simon, VDW Trade Fairs Project Officer and responsible for the METAV digital. "But one of our aims here is to provide that unique trade fair feeling. Which is why we've kept the official opening."

"Unlike most online events, the METAV digital actually offers a genuine 3D experience for visitors as they walk through the halls," explains Dr Wilfried Schäfer. So let's take a look. After registering and logging in, visitors can access the fair through the entrance hall. The best way for them to find their way around is first to complete the short visitor tutorial – then nothing can go wrong. Using either the mouse or the keyboard, they then make their way intuitively through the two exhibition halls – where they will no doubt be surprised by the large number of stands, the creative design and the interesting product presentations. Or they can navigate straight to the relevant stands without first consulting the hall plan. Or, as the third option, they can visit the companies they are interested directly from the exhibitor list.

The METAV digital presents not only company profiles, but also trade fair stands – each occupying between 25 and 100 m2 of exhibition space and equipped with videos, direct links and a media library. Personal communication is also possible in the form of voice-only or video calls. Visitors can register for these on the individual stands. The stands will be staffed from 9:00 in the morning until 17:00 in the afternoon for the duration of the METAV digital. The contact page lists which contacts are

available, and gives their competences and contact details. All those interested can also arrange appointments directly via a calendar function. In order to use this service, visitors must first enter their business cards. A score shows how well the contact person matches the range of interests given during registration.

"This is a very different kind of trade fair visit," says Wilfried Schäfer. "We might not like the situation, but there is really no alternative at the moment. And it does have its advantages. Visitors can conduct their fair business with very little effort, find their way easily to the stands they're interested in, get additional inspiration while making their way through the halls and listen specifically and even repeatedly to the talks in the web sessions that interest them. And, of course, they can also place orders, just as they do at the METAV in Düsseldorf." The VDW expects that METAV digital will not only reach interested parties in North Rhine-Westphalia and the Benelux countries, but will also be able to reach visitors from all over Germany and neighboring markets.

NEWS

Marcegaglia Foundation and social projects in Rwanda

Fondazione Marcegaglia has been operating since 2013 in Rwanda in the district of Bugesera, in the eastern province of Rwanda, where the population often has to deal with the problem of drought and consequent famines and where many women, widows due to the genocide, have to support themselves entire families. In this context, the Marcegaglia Foundation has decided to work directly, thanks to the presence of some Rwandan representatives responsible for the management of the project on site, and in close collaboration with local institutions such as the Rwanda Agriculture Board and the District of Bugesera. The idea was to fit into pre-existing government programs that could have a real impact on the population without imposing external interventions. The first step was to embrace a government program designed to support the most vulnerable sections of the population by promoting traditional economic activity: livestock farming. Given the validity of this program, in 2013 the Marcegaglia Foundation decided to implement it in one of the poorest areas of the country, the Bugesera district, and in particular in the village of Rilima.

The success of the project in activating the entrepreneurial skills of women has been possible over the years and at the same time enhanced by other all-round interventions of the Rilima community with an integrated approach that has made it possible to achieve significant development goals and achievement of development goals. sustainable. The new Center for Early Childhood Development responds to a need

felt by women in the Rilima community, but at the same time is part of a model promoted by the government and already implemented and tested in other contexts. The Center, built in 2019 and operational since January 2020, responds to the need for a place to welcome and take care of preschool children who currently do not have a dedicated nursing place, especially when mothers work. The place promotes adequate intellectual, social and physical development of the child, favoring the training of mothers so that they can continue at home to ensure proper nutrition and health care. Currently, 120 children between the ages of 3 and 6 from disadvantaged or single-parent families are welcomed every day. The center's staff consists of 3 professional educators, a caretaker and a cook. The program to combat malnutrition is integrated with the activities of the center, with a preventive approach based on nutrition education. Fondazione Marcegaglia also undertakes to further support the Bugesera area with the supply of food, teaching material and support for the implementation of structural interventions to ensure the safety of the classrooms.

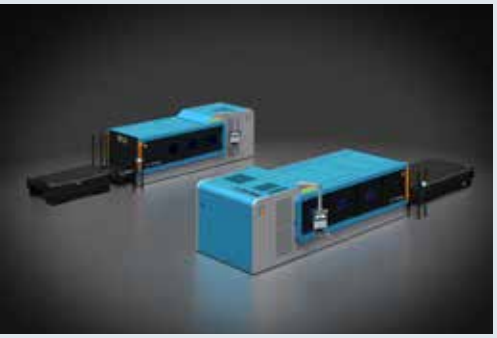
In order to raise funds for the project, Fondazione Marcegaglia invites to choose to be part of the change by taking part in the 5x1000, that is a share of the personal income tax that the Italian State divides, to give support, between entities that carry out socially relevant activities. Payment is at the discretion of the taxpayer, together with the tax return. To support the Marcegaglia Foundation, it is possible to visit the 5x1000.fondazionemarcegaglia.org website.

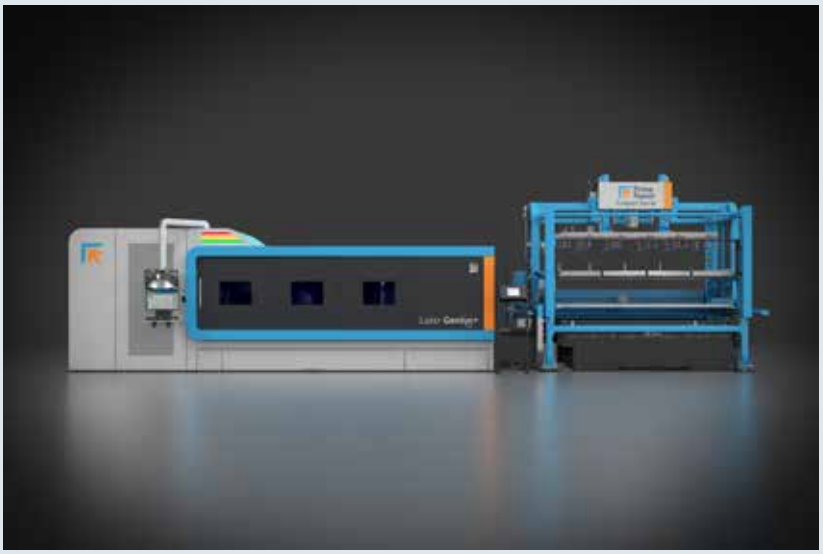
NEWS

"Welcome to the Plus" - the new 2D laser machine from Prima Power Laser Genius+ shapes the new era of laser cutting

Prima Power's range of 2D machines is enriched with a new product, designed and developed to meet the needs of a constantly evolving market, setting new standards in terms of speed, reliability and precision: Laser Genius+.

The new 2D fibre laser machine Laser Genius+, completely designed and built in Italy, has been developed thanks to Prima Power's forty years of experience and to an extremely pragmatic approach, oriented to meet the real expectations of the market, which demands higher performance, efficiency, quality, ease of use, automation and intelligence. With a trajectory speed of 180 m/min, Laser Genius+ is one of the fastest and most productive machines on the market. More importantly, the machine has been designed to make maximum use of the available laser power.





The Laser Genius+ family of machines includes sizes 1530, 2040 and 2060 and can be equipped with a wide range of fibre laser powers, from 2 to 15 kW. The machine is designed to have total control of the laser process and to achieve maximum reliability and quality with every available power. To take advantage of the high powers, a fast, rigid and at the same time light machine is required. In fact, as with cars, it's not just the amount of horsepower that's enough to achieve high performance, it's the suspension, the rigid chassis and above all the lightness that counts. For a laser machine it is exactly the same. What counts to reduce cycle times is an optimum ratio between the rigidity of the structures and the weight of the moving masses. Thanks to these features, the Laser Genius+ is able to exploit every last bit of power in all situations.

The new laser head has also been designed to optimally manage the heat required to melt thick sheets while remaining cool and clean, thanks to the sensors that actively control the cutting process in real time, the hermetically isolated optics, the simplified mechanics and the high-efficiency suction system.

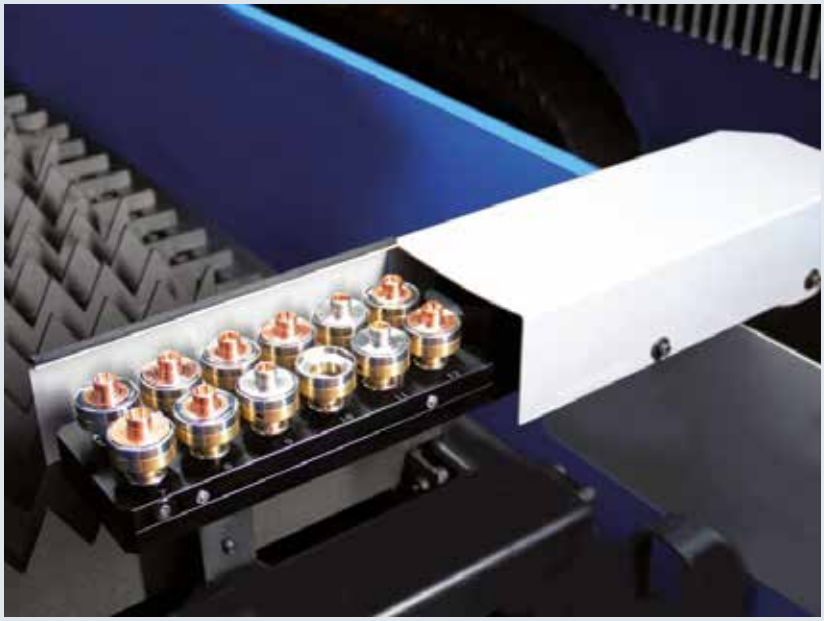
Another important plus of the machine is a unique layout, designed to ensure superior ergonomics and ease of use and to make the most of space.

Accessibility has always been a distinctive feature of Prima Power machines, and it is even more so for Laser Genius+. The cab is available with large sliding doors on either the right or left side, optionally on both sides, for maximum ergonomics.

Its footprint, one of the smallest on the market, and the simplicity of its layout, which integrates all the services already tested in a dedicated module separate from the machine's working area, make it an extremely compact and "plug&play" system, with very fast installation times. Only

NEWS

two days are needed to start production. Furthermore, thanks to the symmetrical and reversible layout, the machine can be placed in any production context without constraints on logistics flows.
Despite the compact layout, Laser Genius+ has the largest working area compared to other 2D machines available on the market (X, Y, Z axis travels: 3150 x 1600 x 150 mm, for the 1530 model, and 4320 x 2200 x 150 mm, for the 2040 model).
Prima Power's new fibre laser head is designed for excellent cutting quality and dynamics on all materials and processable thicknesses with



laser power up to 15kW.
The head features adaptive optics for automatic focal position and diameter management and fast, responsive and accurate stand-off measurement, a single focusing lens to suit all production requirements, integrated impact protection (SIPS) and fast lens alignment (OPC) systems and a protective glass drawer for easy inspection.
The Laser Genius+ monitoring systems control the entire process. LISA (Light Intensity System Analyzer), for example, takes care of real-time verification of the correct operation of process parameters and the Check Optics function allows management of protective glass maintenance, minimising downtime.

The machine's optional Tech Suites provide further cycle time reduction and superior quality, thanks to intelligent management of head movements and piercing and cutting parameters. The new automatic nozzle changer also has 20 stations, allowing the customer to have the most suitable nozzle at all times.

Laser Genius+ is the smartest and most interconnected machine Prima Power has ever produced, with a very high degree of connectivity, new laser head sensors and artificial intelligence algorithms for advanced process monitoring and control.

The machine allows integration with other plants and with the management software present in customer companies, maximising efficiency and productivity. The software manages all phases: importing production orders generated by the customer's system, automatic programming with Prima Power CAMs, production planning and creation of work lists to be loaded directly into the machine, right up to the collection of machine data related to production (quantity of pieces produced and materials used) and performance (machine status, any alarms and processing times) to provide the customer with all the data required by management systems for production control, fully complying with the requirements of Industry 4.0 law.

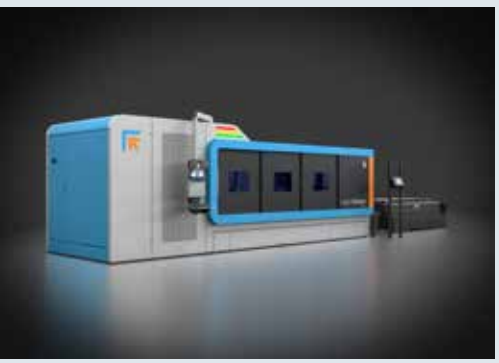
Prima Power has always been close to its customers throughout the product life cycle, which is why it has developed a solution based on the Internet Of Things concept in a SAAS (Software As A Service) perspective dedicated to monitoring and advanced diagnostics based on the collection of a large amount of behavioural data, not production data, from Laser Genius+. The information, collected on a certified security

NEWS

cloud, is available to the technicians of the Prima Power Service Centers who, thanks to the Remote Care web application, check the machine's behaviour and give the customer suggestions for improving production and solving even unexpected problems.

A new console with dual 24" high definition monitors and simplified user interface has been designed for Laser Genius+. The on-board Info Panel also allows the visualization of some real time data, such as details on processed materials and energy consumption, which is very useful for operators and production managers.

The machine is also equipped with three new software modules on board: Optia, for the recovery of scrap metal sheets by digitising shapes via camera, with consequent reduction of waste; Wizard, a simplified CAM that allows to create new nesting and machining operations or modify existing ones (moving, rotating and deleting pieces); 2D Editor, a graphic editor of the partprogram that allows adjustments to the technology (manual and automatic cutting, attachments and micro-joints).



Laser Genius+ is a machine designed for 24/7 continuous production. Standard delivery includes an automatic, fully electric pallet changer, with a cycle time reduction of up to 30% compared to previous versions. Thanks to the increased dynamic performance of the machine and the better exploitation of the potential of high-power fibre lasers, Laser Genius+ is an excellent match for a wide range of automation solutions that cover every need in terms of productivity, even in unmanned mode. The machine can be easily connected to Prima Power automation systems to automate material and workpiece flows (loading, unloading, picking, stacking, and storage) and further increase productivity. Automation modules can also be integrated at later stages as production volumes increase.

Compact Server is the most compact, cost-effective and easy-to-use layout solution on the market, suitable for short periods of unmanned production where a production mix is not required. With the addition of a third pallet it is possible to load and unload from both the manual station and automation, providing high production flexibility. Combo Tower Laser is available in versions with 1 or 2 multi-functional and configurable towers, providing an optimal solution for small to medium "lights-out" production. Night Train is an integrated production system that automates the entire manufacturing process in a single step, from programming to production reporting, ideal for 24/7 production.

Laser Genius+ retains the winning elements of Prima Power machines, but refines them and brings them even closer to customer needs, offering excellent levels of productivity, quality and efficiency, while also ensuring maximum ergonomics and ease of use for the operator.

NEWS

Extend your possibilities with Sanicro® 825

Sandvik's first nickel-iron-chromium alloy in bar and hollow bar

Sandvik, a developer and producer of advanced stainless steels, special alloys, titanium and other high-performance materials, has launched Sanicro® 825, Sandvik's first-ever nickel-iron-chromium alloy in bar and hollow bar, for improved performance in corrosive, high-temperature environments.
Sanicro® 825 (UNS NO8825) extends the company's growing Sanicro® portfolio of nickel alloys and austenitic stainless steels for aggressive wet, corrosive and high-temperature, pressure, acidic and seawater conditions.

A high-strength alloy with minimum 40% nickel content, Sanicro® 825 has excellent corrosion resistance to acids and alkalis, superior resistance to stress corrosion cracking (SCC) and good corrosion resistance to phosphoric, nitric, sulfuric, and organic acids, seawater, caustic chloride alkalis and ammoniac media.
Stable, easy to machine and weld, the new alloy is ideal for use in a wide range of components and installations including heat exchangers, evaporators, offshore piping systems, seawater coolant, valves and flanges. It serves a multitude of industries including oil and gas, chemical, petrochemical, pulp and paper, pickling equipment, nuclear fuel processing and food processing.

Available in three- to seven-meter lengths with an outside diameter (OD) ranging from 20mm-260mm, Sanicro® 825 offers a cost-effective alternative to superalloys such as Alloy 625 and Alloy 718. Its chemical formulation has been tailored within EN, UNS and ASTM standards.
"Sanicro® 825 opens new high-performance possibilities for our customers. At elevated temperatures and in corrosive conditions, this new grade offers clear advantages to standard stainless steel or duplex grades and is more cost-efficient than some superalloys," said Martin Holmquist, Business Development Manager, Sandvik Materials Technology.

"While we naturally adhere to all industry standards, Sanicro® 825 is no ordinary grade. At Sandvik, we strive to set a 'standard within the standard', which means consistently adhering to even tighter tolerances on the chemical composition than those technically required. This is true for Sanicro® 825, which we've further tailored and optimized to find the sweet spot for bar and hollow bar," said Marcus Hillbom, Technical Marketing Manager & Sales, Sandvik Materials Technology.
"With a long tradition in R&D for some of the most demanding industries around the world, Sanicro® 825 builds on Sandvik's 60-year legacy of making premium, high-alloy Sanicro® for corrosive and high-temperature environments," said Henrik Zettergren, Global Product Manager, Sandvik Materials Technology.

NEWS

SLM Solutions Launches its "Print the Future" Competition – an Open Call to Creative Minds Around the Globe

• SLM Solutions launches a call-lout to engineers, designers and artists to submit their 3D designs for its "Print the Future" competition

• The winner will have their design printed by an SLM Solutions system, and it will be showcased on the company's social media platforms

SLM Solutions has launched a new competition to inspire artists, designers and engineers to design with metal 3D printing in mind. Its "Print the Future" competition – launched online last Friday – has asked people to submit and upload their 3D designs, one of which will be built by one of the company's future-forward systems.
SLM Solutions sees this as an opportunity to connect a community of designers to compete at expert level of design for AM. Complex geometry? Submit it! Hard to resolve angles? Challenge us! Let's push the bounds together.

"The point of the competition is to open up metal-based additive manufacturing to those not normally able to take advantage of it," says Sam O'Leary, the company's CEO. "To many, additive manufacturing is seen as something unreal. However, it's a future that has already arrived at the doorstep of many sectors and is disrupting traditional manufacturing as we speak. We are now setting a new paradigm." He further comments, "We hope to open people's minds with what's possible in the world of metal 3D printing with this competition."

SLM Solutions asks people to submit their designs whether functional, beautiful or just plain crazy and select the metal of their choice for the design to be printed, with a significant focus on people presenting their wildest and most original content.

Sam O'Leary concludes, "We hope to open people's minds up to the potential of additive manufacturing with this competition. When more people understand that we are no longer bound by traditional means of manufacturing like CNC milling and welding, and instead have the possibility to create complex geometrical structures and benefit from things such as generative design without having to worry about how it's built, we're going to see a lot of things that we have never seen before." The competition closes on the 21st of May 2021 and submissions will be reviewed by an SLM Solutions jury. The winner will be selected by the end of May.

NEWS

New 3D printer from TRUMPF helps fabricators move into mass production

New TruPrint 3000 uses second laser to double productivity.
Part quality increases thanks to improvements in inert gas delivery and melt pool monitoring

High-technology company TRUMPF recently unveiled the new series of its TruPrint 3000 3D printing system at a virtual customer event. The medium-format machine uses powder-bed-based laser melting to produce parts with a diameter of up to 300 millimeters and a height of up to 400 millimeters. It can handle all weldable materials including steels, nickel-based alloys, titanium and aluminum. "We've improved key aspects of the TruPrint 3000 to tailor it even more closely to the quality requirements, certifications and production processes of various industries," says Klaus Parey, managing director of TRUMPF Additive Manufacturing. The new TruPrint 3000 can be equipped with a second laser that almost doubles its productivity. "The multilaser option significantly reduces part costs – that's how we help our customers make the move into mass production," says Parey. Two 500-watt lasers scan the machine's entire build chamber in parallel. This makes production much faster and more efficient regardless of the number and geometries of the parts. With the Automatic Multilaser Alignment option, the system can automatically monitor the multilaser scan fields during the build stage and calibrate them to each other. With each laser scanning a contour, the process does not lead to any kind of weld seams. This is what allows multilaser parts to meet such outstanding quality standards.

Higher quality thanks to improvements in inert gas supply and melt pool monitoring

The TRUMPF experts have transformed the movement of inert gas through the TruPrint 3000. The way in which it flows through the machine from back to front is now even steadier and more uniform. As well as boosting the quality of printed parts, this also allows the operator to remove excess powder from the part while it is still inside the machine. Previous models required the operator to take the part out and remove the powder at a separate station. The new machine is designed to process the powder in a shielded environment, using an inert gas to prevent the powder from becoming contaminated during the build. This is a major advantage for sensitive industries such as medical device manufacturing.

The new TruPrint 3000 also comes with a melt pool monitoring function. This safeguards the quality of the part during 3D printing by automatically monitoring melt pool emissions and other metrics during the process. Special sensors in the laser optics continuously monitor

the melt pool. A special piece of software compares these readings to the figures for a reference workpiece stored in its database and presents a graphical display of any deviations, such as a melt pool that is too cold or too hot. This gives machine operators the information they need to detect any errors and take whatever action may be necessary.

TruPrint 3000 can be flexibly adapted to customer requirements

Different industries and components have different requirements, which is why TRUMPF offers such flexible production solutions. "The new TruPrint 3000 lets us tailor the process chain to perfectly match each customer's manufacturing process," says Parey. As well as the solution outlined above for powder removal within the machine, the TruPrint 3000 also offers an exchangeable cylinder principle with external unpacking and depowdering stations. This has several advantages, allowing the machine to better meet the customer's specific needs, respond to growing production volumes and keep downtime to a minimum by working in parallel with production.

NEWS

First quarter 2021: machine tool orders up again (+48.6%) Domestic orders +157.9%. foreign orders +30.5%.

In the first quarter of 2021, orders for machine tools from Italian manufacturers are growing again. In particular, the UCIMU index, drawn up by the Association's Centre for Studies & Business Culture, shows an increase of 48.6% in the first three months of the year compared to the same period in 2020. In absolute terms, the index stood at 169 (base 100 in 2015).

The overall result was mainly due to the excellent performance of manufacturers on the domestic market. On the domestic front, in fact, Italian manufacturers recorded an increase in orders of 157.9% compared to the same period last year. The absolute value of the index stood at 195.5.

On the foreign side, orders grew by 30.5% compared to the January-March 2020 period. The absolute value of the index stood at 155.
The data recorded in this first quarter," said Barbara Colombo, president of UCIMU-SISTEMI PER PRODURRE, "are certainly positive and allow us to breathe a little after months of great difficulty. Having said that, the increases recorded must be weighed up: in fact, they are compared to the results achieved in a period, that of the first part of 2020, which was really difficult because, in fact, from the end of February we found ourselves having to deal with the first effects of the international pandemic".
"The domestic market, which we had already perceived at the end of 2020 as having started to grind out orders again, is responding well, supported in this by the incentives for investments in new production technologies provided for in the Transition 4.0 Plan. The indications gathered from foreign markets are also positive, but the recovery has different speeds: China and the United States have a decidedly lively activity, while the Eurozone countries have only just got going.

"The fact that the world is resuming investments in new machine tools and automation systems is undoubtedly excellent news, but we Italian manufacturers risk being partly excluded from the opportunities that some markets are able to offer at the moment, due to the persistent restrictions on people's mobility.
"For this reason," continued President Barbara Colombo, "given the timing of the event, which will take place in the last quarter of the year, a period that should reasonably coincide with the return to normality thanks to mass vaccination, EMO MILANO 2021, scheduled from 4 to 9 October at fieramilano Rho, will be an even more important appointment for us Italian (and other) manufacturers, during which we will have to make the most of all the opportunities offered by an event of this calibre, which is returning to Italy after 6 years and, above all, after more than a year and a half of a forced stop to international exhibitions.

Market indications, together with the progress of the vaccination campaign, which in Italy too seems to have come into full swing in recent weeks, bode well for the success of EMO MILANO 2021, during which companies will present their products and services to operators from the global manufacturing industry who will be coming to Milan.

At the moment, the event has received applications from 28 countries around the world; the most important international players have already confirmed their participation, aware of the enormous commercial potential offered by the event. However, there are still some companies that prefer to wait to confirm their participation, in order to have more certainty about how the exhibition will take place.

"This is why we are asking the government authorities," concluded the UCIMU president, "to provide us with clear and precise indications as soon as possible, because, while it is true that EMO MILANO 2021 is still six months away, it is equally true that the organisation of participation in an event of this kind must be defined now.

NEWS

Leading performance exhaust manufacturer selects UNISON tube bender for the nürburgring

A British-built Unison Breeze all-electric tube bending machine will soon be assisting Milltek Sport Ltd, one of the leading manufacturers of performance exhaust systems, in exhaust prototyping and development work at Germany's world-famous Nürburgring racetrack.
Derbyshire-based Milltek invested in its first Unison Breeze machine, a 76 mm (maximum tube diameter) capability single-stack model, almost ten years ago in order to achieve the superior accuracy, repeatability, control and reliability that Unison's all-electric CNC machines are renowned for. A second Unison Breeze machine, an 80 mm multi-stack tube bender, then followed in 2017.

This latest Unison Breeze machine to be purchased by Milltek – an 80 mm single-stack model – will be located at Milltek Sport GmbH, the company's recently opened €1.5 million development and testing centre in Nürburg. It will be used for exhaust system research & development, small production runs for some of the world's leading high-performance cars, and custom tube manipulation work for several race teams.

With its roots embedded in the demands of the aerospace sector, the 80 mm Breeze offers rapid setup, fast tooling changes, exceptional power, rigid mechanical design, and all-electric control for right-first-time repeatability. These are all attributes that Unison Ltd believes make the 80 mm Breeze the ultimate tube-manipulation machine for businesses specialising in small batch production runs. As Milltek only uses highly robust T304L stainless steel for its exhaust products, the all-electric Breeze's ability to successfully complete tight bends in thin wall tube down to 1D radius, as required for many of today's high performance exhaust systems, was also a key factor in the decision to purchase.

"Investing in this 80 mm Unison Breeze machine will allow us to further expand the capabilities we have on site in Germany, as well as better cater to the growing demand for 80 mm diameter performance exhaust products," comments Milltek Sport Ltd's Managing Director, Steve Pound. "Whereas, up to now, we have sent CAD designs from our German facility to our HQ in Derbyshire for prototyping, we will soon be able to design, prototype, trial and then complete batch and small production runs on site at the Nürburgring. This will not only help us to be even more responsive, but also will help free-up capacity at our UK HQ for our domestic and worldwide customer base. Going forward, having the ability to prototype on site in Germany will further underpin our status as manufacturers of one of the widest ranges of EC-approved performance exhaust systems on the market.

"We looked at a number of competitor machines before placing the order with Unison Ltd," adds Steve Pound. "However, it was a fairly straightforward decision.

NEWS

Our existing Unison machines have more than proved themselves since they were installed, in terms of reliability, accuracy, repeatability and capability. Added to that, Unison's Unibend tube manipulation software is both exceptionally user-friendly and also well-understood by our team in the UK. That alone will prove a real advantage when helping ensure our people in Germany are able to quickly achieve the very most from their new machine. The level of support we have received from Unison over the years has been outstanding. It's also reassuring to know that Unison has a Europe-wide service and support infrastructure in place, should we need to call on them for support, guidance or advice."

"We are delighted that Milltek Sport Ltd has decided to purchase a third Unison Breeze tube bending machine," comments Unison Key Account Manager, Steve Haddrell. "With exceptional power, rapid tooling changes and all-electric control for accurate, effortless repeatability, we are convinced that Milltek's latest Unison Breeze machine will quickly assist both their R&D work and manufacturing strategies."

GrindingHub registration forms available - Register now!

In the last few days the VDW (German Machine Tool Builders' Association) has sent out registration forms to potential GrindingHub exhibitors all over the world. "We first presented our trade fair concept just four weeks ago, and since then we have succeeded in creating the registration forms for the new GrindingHub and distributing them within record time," reports VDW Executive Manager Dr. Wilfried Schäfer. The VDW will be organising GrindingHub from 2022 in cooperation with Messe Stuttgart and with "Machine Tools and Manufacturing Technology" industry sector of Swissmem (Association of the Swiss machinery, electrical and metal industries) as the institutional patron. The aim is to establish the event as the new leading trade fair for grinding technology and superfinishing. It will be held for the first time from 17 to 20 May 2022 in Stuttgart under the banner of GrindingHub - Brings solutions to the surface.

"Our goal is to concentrate on grinding technology itself and address the complete market," explains Schäfer. The focus is therefore on grinding machines and abrasives, but also on the entire production environment of grinding technology, including relevant software tools, process peripherals and the necessary measuring and testing systems for all quality management processes related to grinding.

The GrindingHub will also cover the latest trends in grinding. In addition the appeal of the event will be extended by the presentation of focal points in the special "Grinding Solution Park" exhibition area. These focal points will be developed and presented by industrial experts and scientists.

The face-to-face event will be supplemented by digital services for exhibitors and visitors as well as a web conference in the years between the fairs. The plans have already met with strong approval from many potential GrindingHub exhibitors. "Companies from the industry approached the VDW and asked us to devise an expandable concept for a new trade fair. We are more than confident that we will be able to meet these demands," concludes Schäfer.

NEWS

IndustryArena opens webshop
Online platform adds lead generation to competence profile

Digital sales and communication channels are gaining in importance in B2B trade - which is why IndustryArena is now launching its own webshop. The platform has more than 535,000 registered users, making it the largest online portal for the manufacturing industry. It offers ideal conditions for companies to extend their reach and generate all-important leads.

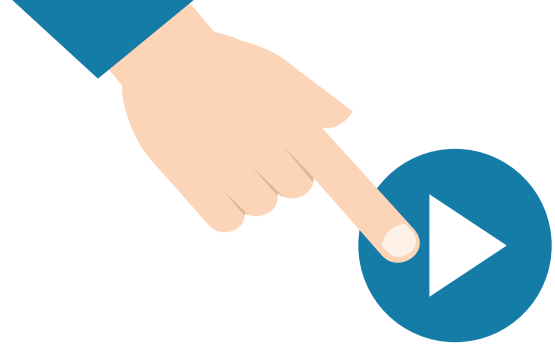
“B2B customers were digitally active long before Covid-19 and social distancing. Decision-makers have been searching online for information, solutions, products and suppliers for years. e-commerce therefore holds a great deal of potential in this area. We decided to open our own webshop in an effort to meet the increasing demands of B2B customers. It allows us to combine content marketing and sales on a central platform,” says Frank Nolden, Managing Director of IndustryArena, Langenfeld.

B2B customers now have the convenience of purchasing everything they need – from high-quality cutting tools, tool holders, drill and lathe chucks as well as hand tools from renowned manufacturers such as Bosch, AEG and Kärcher through to a large selection of accessories and office supplies – at the click of a mouse at webshop.industryarena.com. More than 200,000 products from around 1,000 brands are divided into 15 product groups, including work protection, construction equipment, hand tools, measuring and surface technology, screwdriving tools and welding and clamping equipment. This move takes the company a big step closer towards offering its products to tradespeople and their skilled personnel nationwide.

The IndustryArena webshop also offers a range of special B2B functions which allow it to uphold its accustomed service quality even during the pandemic. This grants B2B customers direct access to high-quality and ready-to-use products and services. Conditions, delivery times, pictures and detailed technical data can be accessed 24 hours a day. Commercial buyers can order products quickly and easily, with 24-hour delivery assured. The shipping area is currently limited to Germany, however this is set to be gradually expanded in the future.

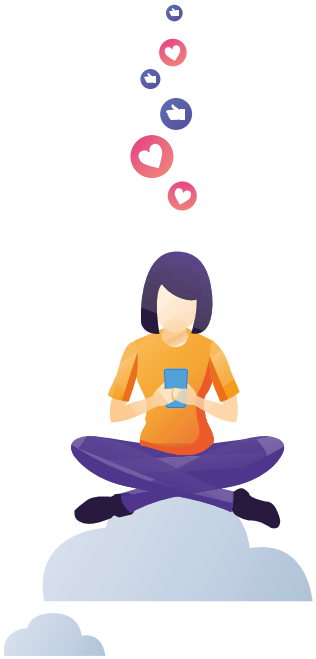
The webshop has been awarded a seal of approval, and is distinguished by its user-friendliness. It is regularly updated to ensure it remains state-of-the-art, and B2B customers also enjoy a low price guarantee and monthly offers, including discounts of up to 50 per cent. Major customers also receive special purchase prices. The fast entry functions ensure efficient ordering. These include camera- scanning, manual entry of item number and quantity, and shopping basket import via XLS or CSV. Buyers can add items to a favourites list or save the shopping basket for purchase later. The items in the shopping basket can also be downloaded as a PDF. Payment is made by credit card, Paypal or “Sofortüberweisung”. Purchase on account will also be introduced in the near future.

In addition, a highly effective ticketing system is used for customer service and customer interactions. This helps provide the best possible service to business and corporate customers and allows customer requirements to be responded to quickly and efficiently.



YOUR EVENTS ARE NOW ONLINE

The pandemic and consequent lockdown pushed many remarkable changes in the world of communication: it is possible to see these changes as **opportunities**. One of them is that **events, presentations, lectures** and even **press conferences** are **played on-line**, directly via **web-streaming**. The keystone is managing them in a professional way: interruptions, unstable connection and other problems can push away your audience; otherwise, if your event goes smoothly, it can be the right way to reach your public. Do you want to know how you can achieve this goal? **Download the free quick guide written by the Inspire Communication's experts** that will help you in leading your online event to success.



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