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INVESTS IN LEITZ CMM

Index Corporation recently took delivery of a Leitz CMM (coordinate measuring machine) Model PMM XI for its metrology lab. The machine will be used to check customer workpieces produced in run-offs at Index's 50,000 sq ft demonstration and engineering facility here.

"With this high-end measuring machine, we will be able to prove the effectiveness of Index and Traub machining processes to our customers and assure them of our machines' ability to consistently produce top quality parts for their customers," said Jeffrey Reinert, Index president.

Leitz CMMs are ultra-high precision coordinate measuring machines for quick inspection of basic geometries (i.e. cylinder blocks, gear boxes), and most types of special geometries found in precision machined parts as produced by Index and Traub machines. These include mechanical parts, automotive parts, valve parts, electronic connectors as well as gears, camshafts, worms, screw compressors. Form inspection is fast and easy using Leitz 3D probe technology, integrated with high-speed-scanning which permits rapid collection of a large number of data points quickly.



Index has already used the Leitz machine to good effect in proving its machining processes produce parts that meet the quality specifications of its customers.

"Part of the value to us of having this particular CMM is to provide inarguable proof that machine performance is as we assert," said Reinert. "Leitz is a recognized world leader in high-precision measurement."

Hewland

EXPANDS GRINDING, INSPECTION CAPABILITIES

Hewland Engineering recently announced a multi-million pound investment in state-of-the-art spiral level grinding capability, due to arrive in autumn 2015.

The new Klingelnberg Oerlikon G60 Spiral Bevel Gear Grinding Machine and Klingelnberg P65 Gear Measuring Center will increase final-drive performance, durability and precision, while also increasing manufacturing capacity to provide clients with market-leading delivery times.

The G60 and P65 will utilize a closed-loop monitoring system to provide active feedback, ensuring every component can meet the demands of its application, be it in motorsport, aerospace, OEM or defense.

With the G60 capable of grinding forms up to 600 mm in diameter to consistent DIN 4 accuracy, the machine will enable production of spiral bevel gears to suit almost any application, while the P65 gear measuring center (with a capacity of 650 mm) ensures that all surfaces are machined to the exacting tolerances required in the precision manufacturing sectors.

With the capability to machine to fine (Formula One-grade) tolerances post-heat-treatment, the new machinery will deliver improvements in efficiency, reduced gearbox temperatures and increased component life.

For bespoke and made-to-drawing applications, new software will allow faster setup, with on-machine dressable grinding wheels negating the need for bespoke tooling. This will result in shorter lead times, improved quality and a reduction in up-front costs.

"The expansion of our grinding capabilities ensures we continue to provide components and transmissions of the utmost quality," said Hewland Company Chairman William Hewland. "Transmission efficiency is of paramount importance in our industry, particularly with the rapid emergence of Electric Vehicle technology. Hewland is already a global market leader in this field, as well as in the general motorsport sector, and this state-of-the-art machinery will herald a new era of performance for all present and future clients."



Solar Atmospheres

RECEIVES FIRST MEDACCRED ACCREDITATION

Solar Atmospheres, Inc. recently announced that it has become the first company to receive MedAccred accreditation.

Medical prime contractors are demanding that environmental conditions are controlled, processes validated, and the risk of foreign object debris (FOD) reduced. Performance Review Institute (PRI) states that MedAccred is an industry managed supply chain oversight program that bolsters patient safety. It does this through clarification of requirements and better identifying how they apply to critical processes used in the production of medical devices.

“Achieving MedAccred accreditation is not easy: It is one of the ways in which the medical device manufacturing industry identifies those suppliers capable of providing superior critical process manufacturing to the device industry,” said Joe Pinto, executive vice president and chief operating officer at PRI. “Solar Atmospheres has worked hard to obtain this status and they should be justifiably proud of it.

“PRI is proud to support continual improvement in the medical device manufacturing industry by helping companies such as Solar Atmospheres be successful and we look forward to continuing to assist the industry moving forward. I would like to add my personal congratulations to everyone at Solar Atmospheres, as the company has been actively involved in the MedAccred program for some time now, and volunteered to pioneer this process. Their positivity and diligence has paid off and I am delighted to award them the first ever MedAccred certificate.”

Benefits of MedAccred include: providing consistent/standardized critical process accreditation accepted by the medical device industry, resulting in fewer redundant onsite audits by multiple OEMs; conducting in-depth critical process audits that are compliant and consistent to accepted industry/technical standards and conducted by subject matter experts; providing greater visibility of the supply chain to all levels and sub-tiers that provide critical processes, consistent with regulatory requirements (e.g. FDA, ISO 13485, MDD, etc.); improving



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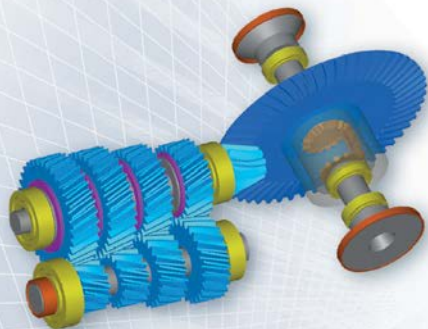
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Ipsen

AWARDED U.S. PATENT ON SEALING MECHANISM FOR A VACUUM HEAT-TREATING FURNACE

Ipsen was recently awarded U.S. Patent No. 20,100,196,836 A1 for the development of a new shaft seal.

Chief Engineer Craig Moller, Chief Operating Officer Jake Hamid and Dr. W. Hendrik Grobler, the named inventors on the patent, began formulating this design seven years ago for use with Ipsen's TITAN vacuum furnace lines.



Today, this shaft seal is present in every TITAN furnace in the field – almost 200 to date. With this invention, Ipsen was able to locate the motor outside of the vacuum chamber, allowing it to be in a cooler and more stable environment. This relocation of the motor poses numerous advantages, including extended motor life and a longer interval between motor rebuilds. Since the installation of this shaft seal on the first TITAN unit in 2009, the TITAN furnaces have experienced thousands of hours of trouble-free operation.

In addition, now that the motor is outside in ambient air, users no longer have to use a step-down transformer for Argon cooling gas – as required by NFPA 86. Maintenance has also been simplified with users able to grease the motor's bearings, monitor the vibration of the motor and perform routine maintenance checks. This, combined with Ipsen's production and assembly process that integrates premium components, lowers the cost of ownership.

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Charles D. Schultz
chuck@beytagear.com
[630] 209-1652

www.beytagear.com