

AMB 2012 Focuses on Technology Integration and Education

A large number of technologies aimed primarily at higher productivity were presented by exhibitors at the AMB, International Exhibition for Metal Working at the Stuttgart Trade Fair Centre in September. Following the successful 2010 show, AMB 2012 boasted further developments in energy and resource efficiency, higher productivity, life cycle performance, quality assurance and user-friendliness.

Energy-Efficient Gains

The Blue Competence Initiative of the German Engineering Federation (VDMA) was the focal point of a presentation during AMB 2012. "This Initiative has clearly shown that the German machine tool industry is a pioneer in the area of energy efficiency," said Prof. Dr.-Ing. Eberhard Abele, head of the Institute for Production Management, Technology and Machine Tools (PTW) at Darmstadt Technical University. "This Initiative has also ensured that many customers now think far more about energy-efficient machine tools than they did in the past."

Machine tool builders that participate in the Blue Competence Machine Tools Initiative commit themselves to optimizing the use of energy and other resources to enable faster, better and higher quality manufacturing in end-user industries. "This landmark initiative underlines the willingness of European machine tool builders to make a leap forward towards a better and greener manufacturing perspective. Production technology and equipment supplied by the machine tool industry are the key enablers of resource-efficient processes in all other manufacturing industries," said Martin Kapp, president of CECIMO and CEO of the Kapp Group. "Now, our manufacturers are taking on a firm commitment to align, in a holistic approach, their products, processes and business models with sustainability principles."

Multitasking Machining Solutions

Emco's presentation at Stand 5B34 in Hall 5 included the Hyperturn machine series for complete machining of complex workpieces and a revamped version of the Linearmill 600 5-axis machining center. Technology integration was also one of the key aspects of the exhibition program for MAG-IAS at Stand 5A11 in Hall 5. Martin Winterstein, marketing manager at MAG-IAS said that "Thanks to the combination of complementary machining technologies on one machine platform, we are creating value for our customers." Examples include honing on milling centers or chamfering, deburring and drilling on hobbing machines parallel to machining time. Machine competence and process and system know-how were also emphasized during the show. Multitasking, i.e., the combination of many different machining technologies and processes based on standard machines, is also the focus at Heller where the company showed off the new CP 8000 from the



Developing the engineers and manufacturers of tomorrow was a key topic during AMB 2012 (courtesy of AMB).

C Series for milling and lathe turning, which has a workspace of 1,250 × 1,200 × 1,400 mm. The leading companies in the mechanical engineering industry are coming ever closer together.

European Skills Shortage Examined

Bertram Brossardt, managing director of the Bavarian Industry Association, believes there will be a shortage of almost three million people in the German labor market by 2015. He also said that finding and retaining skilled personnel posed a "great challenge for industry and society." Under the motto "Mechanical engineer – a job with power," the VDW (Association of German Machine Tool Manufacturers) Educational Foundation for Young People recruited youngsters at AMB 2012. In cooperation with six partners, the VDW invited school students in Baden-Württemberg from the final classes of technically oriented grammar schools, intermediate schools, comprehensive schools and vocational schools with training in metal working occupations to the exhibition. During the special show in the atrium of the Stuttgart Trade Fair Centre, these students had the opportunity to obtain information on recognized trainee occupations in the metal working industry, training and work content, engineering courses and career prospects in the area of machine tool manufacture. The VDW Educational Foundation for Young People is financially supported, for example, by such renowned companies as Index, Hermle, Trumpf, DMG, Siemens and Heidenhain. Project Manager Dr. Marina Kowalewski said before the show, "Through their involvement, the cooperation partners support the objectives of the VDW Educational Foundation for Young People, i.e., to improve vocational training in mechanical engineering and recruit young qualified engineers for the industry." The VDW Educational Foundation for Young People has therefore developed action-oriented school student documents for the area of computer-aided manufacturing that can be used by the lecturers during the lessons.

AMB 2012 closed its doors in Stuttgart on September 22 after posting a record number of exhibitors and visitors. Around 90,000 trade visitors from 65 countries, 12 percent of them from abroad, and 1,356 exhibitors from 29 countries, 27 percent of them from abroad, presented their new products and innovations at the Stuttgart Trade Fair Centre. According to various reports, AMB 2012 was the most successful in the trade shows history.

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