

EuroBLECH

Bulletin

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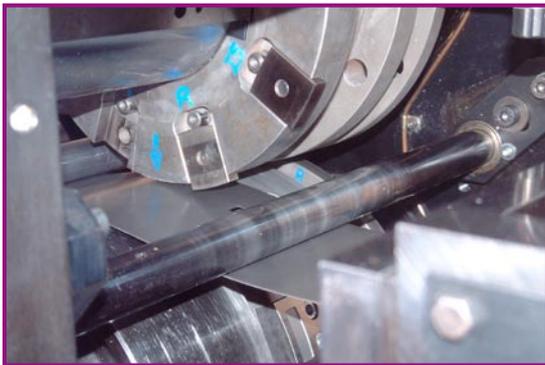
EuroBLECH 2008 – ready for take-off!

■ To make sure that the doors open for visitors at exactly 9am on Tuesday 21st October 2008 for the 20th EuroBLECH, it's all hands on deck at the Hanover Exhibition Centre. High-tech equipment is being assembled and set in motion, enormous presses are being delivered and impressively creative stands can be seen all over the show grounds.

At this year's show 1,520 exhibitors from 38 countries will show their new machines, systems, tools and services in an area of 87,700m² net. The jubilee show is set to be bigger than ever before and for the first time 5 entrances are available to visitors: West 1, West 2, Nord 17, Ost 3 und Süd 1. Tickets are available at the entrance or at www.euroblech.de



What's that?



Rotary punching

■ The cutting process in rotary punching is closer to shearing than to vertical punching. In this system the material is fed between two driven shafts fitted with the tool bearing rings. The individual punches are attached

to the punch ring and the respective dies into the die ring. The slugs drop sideways out of the die ring and are then disposed of.

The punches and dies intermesh during rotary punching and meet precisely where the material is to be punched. In this way a shearing cut is created, rather than a vertical pressure cut.

The material is fed between the tools and is continuously punched.

The punching forces involved in a shearing cut are considerably lower. This is why less drive power is required, with substantially reduced vibrations and emissions occurring.

Speeds of up to 200 m/min. and material thicknesses up to 3 mm, combined with an uninterrupted work flow, mean that processing continuous materials can be highly economical; rotary punching machines can be integrated in series into rollforming lines.

At around 6 sq.m., the space required for rotary punching equipment is relatively small. Loop pits and foundations are not necessary and noise pollution of the immediate area is low. (Sources: www.blechnet.com Vogel Industrie-Medien, hall 14, stand H30 / Baust Stanztechnologie, hall 27, stand F44).

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20th International Sheet Metal Working Technology Exhibition
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Exhibition Highlights ...

New robots and new welding systems for flexible production



Photo: Cloos

- High performance technologies such as CP (Cold Process) for thin sheet

welding, and laser hybrid and tandem welding provide extra efficiency. The very low energy input from the Cloos impulse welder GLC353 Quinto CP not only helps to prevent component distortion, but also reduces blending of the welding material with the substrate. Cloos also offers innovations in MIG/MAG tandem welding and in laser hybrid welding with beam and arc. In terms of robotics, the company, based in Haiger (Germany) is fielding the new Romat 350 9-axis system with a vertical lift of 1.5m off ground level.

www.cloos.de

Hall 13, Stand D21



Photos: ICS



Labels for oily surfaces

- Reliable, individual identifying of components is indispensable in modern production, and grease, oil or cooling agents are no obstacles for labels equipped with ICS Oil-Off. These labels will also adhere reliably in the presence of water and can even cope with temperatures up to 60 degrees centigrade. Further products supplied by the labelling specialists ICS include laser films with high resistance to mechanical wear and chemicals, as well as the appropriate laser marking systems.

www.ics-ident.de

Hall 17, Stand D51

WAFIOS – this year in Hall 15

- At this year's EuroBLECH, WAFIOS AG will be presenting the new BM30, a high-quality CNC single head bending and coiling machine, for the production of two and three dimensionally bent parts as well as frames from wire and profiled materials. Another addition to the WAFIOS product range is the BMZ 42 CNC tube bending

machine, for the production of two and three dimensionally bent parts from tube or solid material. WAFIOS and MEWAG will present their high-end range of tube bending machines for diameters of up to 170mm at their new stand location in Hall 15.

www.wafios.de

Hall 15, Stand B06

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Invitation to the EFB Panel Discussion

■ The European Research Association for Sheet Metal working (EFB) will be hosting a panel discussion on the topic: “Applied Research in Germany – New Engineers and Technological Advancement for Medium-sized Enterprises and Large-scale Industry.” On Wednesday

22.10.08 at 15:00 visitors and journalists are invited to the EFB stand in order to discuss this topic with Dr. Frank Weber (Head of Center Press Plant, Mercedes-Benz Factory, Sindelfingen), Dr.-Ing. Thomas Gräbener (President, The German Federation of Industrial Research Associations, AiF), Wilfried

Jakob (President, EFB), Dr. Rainer Beyer (CEO, Eckold GmbH & Co.KG) and Dr. Norbert Wellmann (CEO, EFB). Discussions will focus on several questions including: Where can companies find new engineers? How does technological advancement contribute to a competitive advantage in the German mechanical engineering industry? What does applied research in Germany have to offer?

www.efb.de

Hall 17, Stand C44

New, ultra-high strength steel for roll forming operations

■ High yield strength, tight bending radii and high dimensional stability are key characteristics in roll forming. Docol Roll is a new optimised dual phase specialised steel with a very balanced hardness distribution from the Swedish steel producer SSAB. The

new material is particularly suitable for demanding rollforming applications in the automotive industry.

www.ssab.com

Hall 16, Stand G13

Cleaning of serial components to highest specifications

■ The rotational cycle units in Zippel's RT-range provides a highly efficient, innovative process for sheet metal parts. Integrated handling robots, plus high pressure particle removal at up to 1,000 bar, can handle even the most complex shapes. The units can be integrated into production lines and optional features are available, including vacuum drying and water recycling.

www.zippel.com

Hall 13, Stand E37



Cameras for quality control

■ Thanks to its high resolution, the plasmo ProfileObserver will reliably detect surface faults in welding and soldering seams as well as in other geometrical forms, even at speeds of up to 30m/min. Even pinholes or cracks a tenth of a millimetre in size can be identified if they are visible

on the surface. The system can be installed alongside soldering robots, for example, and its slimline design fits even into confined spaces.

www.plasmo.eu

Hall 11, Stand E74

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Photo: Schuler

Hydraulic deep drawing - the perfect solution for short runs of complex parts and prototype production

■ It's a continuing trend - parts are becoming ever more elaborate in their design whilst production runs are getting shorter and the cost pressure increases. Hydraulic deep drawing is the answer to this dilemma, because the active media-based forming process is particularly versatile and cost-efficient. During this process, a

pressurised fluid medium is used to press the blank into a fixed mould, thereby forming the workpiece. The dies required are smaller than with conventional deep drawing systems and accordingly cheaper.

www.schulergroup.com
Hall 27, Stand D24

Tool clamping, tool changing and magnetic clamping

■ Wherever tools or workpieces need to be fixed safely and firmly in one position, Hilma can provide reliable answers. Efficient clamping reduces unproductive setup times and helps improve productivity. There are hydraulic, mechanical, electro-mechanical and magnetic clamping units in the company's product range, together with new grip rail couplings, ball bars, and sliding clamps.

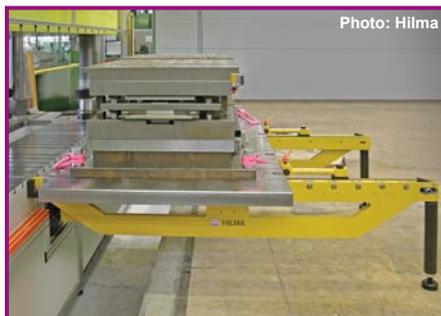


Photo: Hilma

www.hilma.de Hall 27, Stand B40

DEALERS WANTED!

■ Pacific Press Technologies, Incorporated is looking for dealers to sell our hydraulic press brakes, presses and shears in markets outside the United States. We specialize in larger machines and steel pole systems, along with custom made machines. Visit our website at www.pacific-press.com or contact Steve Schurman at sschurman@pacific-press.com

User-friendly machine controls

■ The PC-based control system GPlus 450 for waterjet, laser and plasma cutting lines has been specifically designed with the programme range of Knuth Werkzeugmaschinen in mind. The control offers standardised processing cycles and graphic support via its high-contrast 17" touchscreen monitor. The unit can handle 450 NC

sets/min, includes a LookAhead function and comes with an 80GB HDD.

www.knuth.de
Hall 12, Stand F79



Photo: Knuth

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Photo: AIMS



Vertical cutting of metal sheet with imaQcut

■ Immaculate quality cutting at a high speed of 135m/min, reduced risk of surface scratching and outstanding environmental characteristics are the main features the Australian company AIMS lists for its new vertical plasma cutting machine. The unit, suitable for sheet from 1520 to 3650mm wide, also offers excellent ergonomics with all cut parts within the operator's reach. The plasma arc is mounted behind the carriage, helping to protect the operator's eyes.

www.aimsptyltd.com

Hall 14, Stand G01

Heavy duty presses from 800 to 10,000kN

■ The new dynamic servo presses from Andritz Kaiser form part of the 151 series. These machines are freely programmable in terms of their movement characteristics and the ram stroke can be adjusted over a wide range. The new drive concept prevents a pendulum stroke and increases the pressure force available. The current programme of the 151 series (2,500 to 10,000kN) has now been rounded off at the lower power end with new presses from 800 to 2,000kN, whilst at the upper end of the performance range customised units are available with forces of up to 25,000kN.

www.andritz.com

Hall 27, Stand G54



Photo: Andritz

Integrated press hardening concepts

■ With 60 years of experience in the design and construction of oil hydraulic presses from 25 to 25,000kN, used in sheet metal forming and forging, NEFF-Pressen is ideally placed to develop the latest processes for press hardening (hot stamping). NEFF-Pressen will display this very latest technology

alongside conventional systems at the company's stand at EuroBLECH 2008. Other services provided by NEFF are health and safety inspections, preventive maintenance as well as repair and updating of hydraulic presses.

www.neff-pressen.de

Hall 27, Stand E33



Photo: Gasparini

New sheet metal shears from Gasparini

■ The new X-CUT shears produced by the Italian company Gasparini SpA from Istrana near Venice comes equipped with many high-precision and high-efficiency characteristics and will be shown at EuroBLECH 2008 for the first time. X-CUT not only has a high operating speed and low energy consumption, it also features innovative details such as the front-mounted chute with container for waste and clippings.

www.gasparini.com

Hall 15, Stand E23

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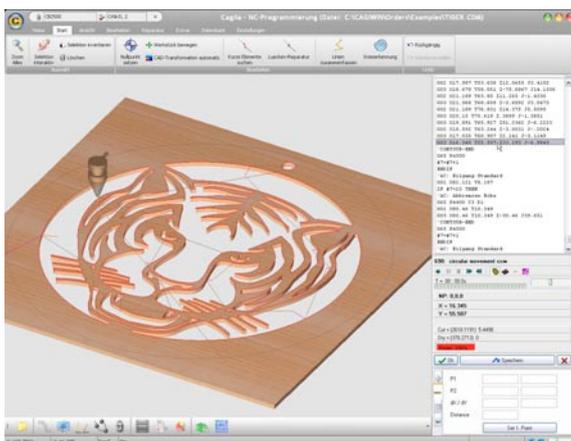


Photo: CAM Service

NC programming software for laser, waterjet, plasma and flame cutting

■ The German software firm CAM-Service has developed an advanced version of its CAGILA programme, which now has additional interfaces and modules. Bidirectional links can be created within the NC process chain, connecting design, production planning and production. Another feature is a fully automated connection to the 3D CAD system SolidWorks and the new Part Wizard helps to generate entire component families within seconds.

www.cam-service.com Hall 11, Stand G55

Extensive range of presses

■ Standard, deep drawing, notching, tryout, straightening and heavy duty presses, together with the relevant systems and control units make up the product range of Exner Pressen from Witten, Germany. The company also provides customised equipment for hot forming and forging to suit the requirements of its customers from the automotive industry and other sectors of sheet metal working.

www.exner-pressen.de
Hall 27, Stand H01

Photo: Exner



Up to 60 per cent savings on punching stator and rotor sheets

■ The new Segment Master System for Schuler's super-efficient SAL high speed presses optimises the production of ring-shaped lamination stacks required for the new hybrid automotive engines. The parts leave the machine as ready packed rings, suitable

for immediate further processing, simplifying materials handling, reducing space requirements and providing material savings of up to 60 per cent.

www.schulergroup.com
Hall 27, Stand D24

New standard for TIG Welding

■ At EuroBLECH 2008, REHM GmbH & Co.KG Schweißtechnik will be presenting the new INVERTIG.PRO range which is set to revolutionise TIG welding. The unique combination of the newly developed Bi-Power Inverters and precise digital process regulation offers sealing properties that have, until now been impossible to achieve, especially with aluminium. With the perfectly aligned iSYSTEM component, a continuous running time and easy operation, INVERTIG.PRO offers the highest possible levels of efficiency and convenience.

www.rehm-online.de
Hall 12, Stand B18

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Trends ...

Making a critical assessment of relocating production

■ According to a report on the website of the German magazine MM Maschinenmarkt, in one of every five cases where companies have relocated their production, the moves are currently having to be reversed, as they have not worked out financially. The authors recommend taking a more critical look at what is involved in moving to a low-cost site. A comprehensive evaluation of the expenses likely to be incurred must consider all aspects and not just 'talk up' the advantages. Quoting Dr. Steffen Kinkel, head of the Competence Center at the Fraunhofer Institute, MM stated: "Many of the moves that have been reversed could have been avoided if calculations had been carried out properly in the first place."

The magazine refers in this context to a joint study carried out by the VDI and the Fraunhofer Institute for Research into Systems and Innovation (ISI) at the German company Rittal in Herborn.

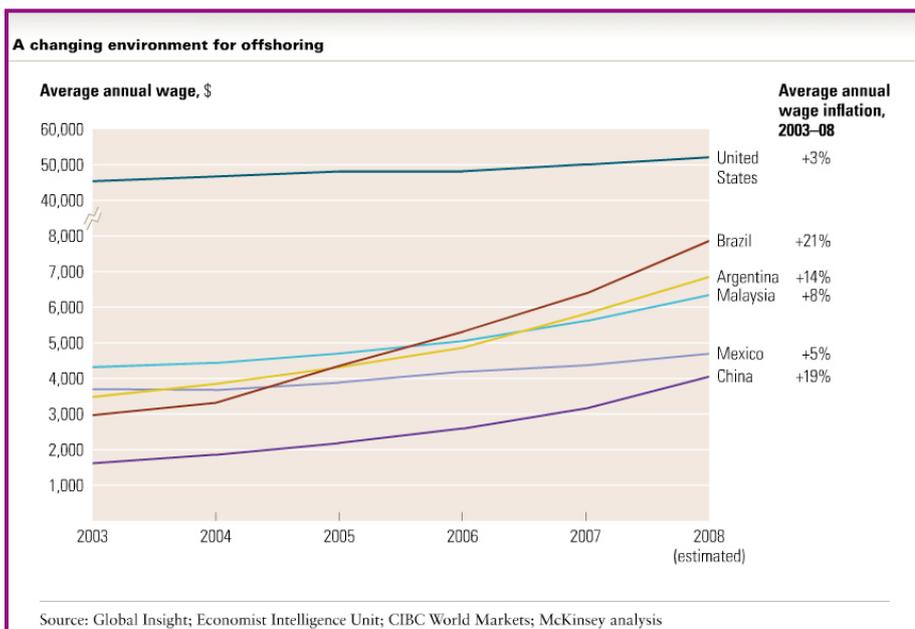
Rittal, part of the Friedhelm Loh Group, achieves 70% of its turnover with industrial enclosure systems abroad, but manufactures 67% of its goods in Germany.

According to a study by the consultancy firm Ernst & Young (E&Y), automotive suppliers in particular will also come away from building up production capacities abroad based purely on costs. Although in 2006 one in two German suppliers was planning a move of this kind, now only 25% of companies are still considering such plans. "Rising energy costs mean that manufacturing abroad - provided the main aim is to supply the market in Western Europe - is increasingly proving unattractive, because logistics costs, combined with problems of quality and flexibility, absorb a substantial part of the savings made" said Peter Fuß, one of the partners at E&Y. Moreover, higher labour costs at the new sites

in Eastern Europe have reduced the cost benefit of manufacturing there, especially as in Germany rises have been moderate.

Consultants McKinsey have put forward similar thoughts in a recent study entitled "Time to rethink offshoring", where American experts discuss the break-even point for production abroad, whether in neighbouring countries or overseas. In the light of relatively low rises in labour costs on the domestic market (USA +3%) and rapidly increasing incomes in some 'low-wage countries' (Brazil +21%, China +19%, Argentina +14%), there is a shift in the thresholds at which moving production no longer seems economically viable. The cost of transporting goods - which has now risen to heights unimaginable a few years ago - also has a major effect on calculations. The average price for transporting a 40 foot container has tripled since 2000, according to McKinsey.

Nevertheless, 15% of German automotive suppliers are still scheduling investments in Eastern Europe, particularly in Russia. New sites are also being looked at in China and India, although with greater care and caution than just a few years ago. One crucial factor in this context can be that suppliers follow their customers - the car manufacturers - more or less voluntarily. Nowadays investments of this nature mainly constitute additional capacity, built up to supply the respective local markets, rather than shifting production to meet requirements at home.



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Industry News ...

Metalware manufacturers form new buyers' association

When times get tough, everybody pulls closer together - and the metalware factories that are members of the American Hardware Manufacturers Association (AHMA) in the USA are no exception. According to IndustryWeek, this has created a purchasing pool of 450 companies who are able to procure their raw materials at special rates from over 110 recognised suppliers.

US metalformers still positive

In the August Business Conditions Report published by the Precision Metalforming Association (PMA) in August 2008, metalformers said they expected to see general economic activity picking up only slightly in the autumn. Of the 147 companies surveyed, 20 per cent predicted activity would improve, 52 per cent predicted activity would remain unchanged and 28 per cent forecast a decline in business

conditions. Overall these results were markedly better than those from a month earlier.

Hot metal forming network inaugurated

A truly 'hot' subject in sheet metal processing, hot metal forming is the focus of a new network which currently comprises 11 companies operating internationally in this field. Purpose of the organisation is to promote thermal processing technology and to provide a central contact point. Named The Premier League in Hot Metal Forming Technology, this young association can be found in hall 27, stand E15 at EuroBLECH.

Forming technology working group

Eighteen scientific institutes in the field of forming technology make up the German Forming Working Group. In its September issue, the magazine BLECH InForm began presenting these think tanks with their particular specialities. Further information

is available from the publishers (www.hanser.de) or from the working group direct (www.umformen.de).

New Mg-Al materials

According to the industry portal ATZ Online, Berlin's Technical University (specialist field 'Metallic materials', Prof. W. Reimers) is working on a combination of magnesium and aluminium materials that would enable magnesium to also be used for load-bearing parts in automobiles. The core problems to be addressed in this context are corrosion prevention and the development of joining processes for magnesium.

The scientists are moreover also already working on processes that will allow magnesium alloys to be pressed to form sheets of approx. 1.5 mm thickness, using flat moulds. These can then be rolled out to proprietary 0.7 mm thick sheets, coated with aluminium for corrosion protection and used for non load-bearing parts of the car body.

MACKBROOKS
exhibitions

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