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FABRICATION SHOW DAILY

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE FABTECH INTERNATIONAL & AWS WELDING SHOW

Monday, October 6, 2008

Oser Communications Group

Las Vegas

ADDITION OF CNC CONTROLS INCREASES VERSATILITY TO HYDRAULIC IRONWORKER

By Don Letourneau, GEKA Products Manager

Hydraulic ironworkers have been on the market for more than 30 years. They are very versatile machines, and in most cases they are the machines that are used the most in structural shops, pre-fabricating metal building shops, welding shops, truck and trailer manufacturers and miscellaneous fabricating shops.

GEKA has taken the hydraulic ironworker to the next level with the addition of the CNC punch positioning table and the CNC measuring and shearing system to the plate shear section.

GEKA's model semi-paxy is an X-Y coordinate punching table with a Windows industrial PC touch



Continued on Page 13

TWO NEW, POWERFUL, USER-FRIENDLY MODELS IN POWERCUT LINE ANNOUNCED

Jeff Hoffart, Sr. Vice President and General Manager, Equipment, Cutting & Steel Industry Products, ESAB Welding & Cutting Products - North America, details the new products being introduced here at FABTECH.

FSD: Tell us a little about ESAB Welding & Cutting Products.

JH: ESAB Welding & Cutting Products is a world leader in the development and manufacture of welding and cutting equipment and filler metals.



FSD: What would you say makes your company unique?

Continued on Page 13

WOLF ROBOTICS: INNOVATION IN THE CHANGING WORLD OF WELDING AUTOMATION

Chris Norris, Marketing Manager of Wolf Robotics, shares his thoughts on the evolution of the company since 1944, and the impact of robotic technology on the welding industry.

FSD: What is the background and focus of Wolf Robotics?

CN: Wolf Robotics has grown and evolved over the years through numerous acquisitions by leading corporations [i.e. Heath Engineering, ESAB and ABB] in the fabricating industry. We started out in

1944 as a farm implement manufacturer and developed technology that redirected our emphasis to the engineering of shape cutting equipment and eventually the automation of welding through robotics.



Continued on Page 10

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF MILLER ELECTRIC'S PULSED MIGS, SEE POTENTIAL REALIZED

While pulsed MIG welding has been around for a while, it's mainly in the last few years that it's been living up to its potential for increased productivity, decreased costs and easier operator training. The reason is that technology leaders, such as Miller Electric Mfg. Co., have made what was once a complex process easy to use and accessible to everyone.

In pulsed MIG, the current pulses between a high peak value, where metal transfer occurs, and a low background current, which maintains the arc but

allows the puddle to cool. This puts less heat into the work than does spray transfer—avoiding such issues as warping or burn-through on thin materials—yet maintains many of its benefits, such as good fusion, high deposition rates and/or fast travel speeds. Because pulsed MIG maintains the arc, it avoids spatter and its related costs.

Until a few years ago, pulsed MIG was complicated, requiring a welding engineer to operate; however, software

Continued on Page 13

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Booth #4001

Wolf Robotics - experience and expertise in welding automation . . .

Wolf Robotics has been involved with welding since the 1970's and is responsible for numerous automation advancements. Below are just a few of Wolf Robotics' recent innovations and we are always searching for more ways to improve or expand the capabilities of the welding process. This year at the Fabtech Show, we are demonstrating several new products, features and processes developed to make your **Manual** or **Robotic** welding operation more productive. Stop by our booth to see the latest innovations and learn more about how Wolf Robotics is dedicated to perfecting the welding process. Contact us for details or to arrange a visit to one of our many satisfied customers or our manufacturing facility.

Finally ... Turn-Key CAD/CAM part programming of your robotic welding cells ...

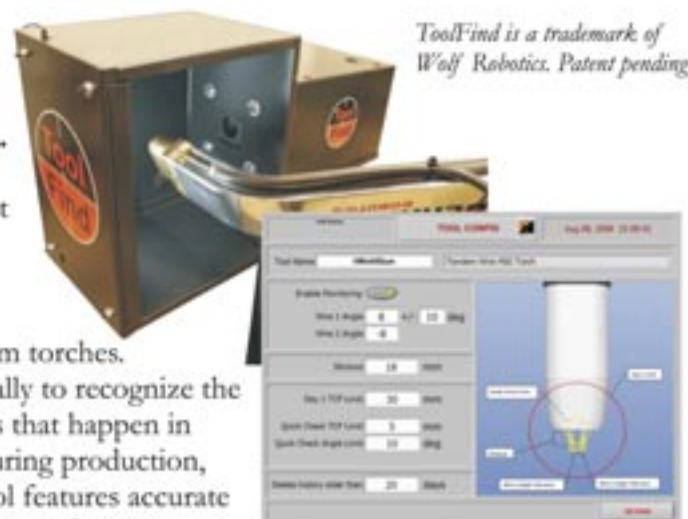
Accurate off-line programming is essential to a successful robotic welding operation. You've modernized your machine shop years ago with CAD/CAM but not the welding operation. Most software programs are not capable of executing identical programs on the computer and at the robot weld station. Now you can simplify and streamline the process. Wolf offers true CAD/CAM capability with our programming software and we can eliminate or minimize online touch-up to generate higher part quality with more accurate paths than any other supplier. Stop by our booth for a demonstration and learn how Wolf Robotics has developed trouble-free true off-line part programming. Ask about our **Turn-Key** services for a problem-free installation.



Automated Tandem Torch TCP Calibration is now possible ...

Wolf Robotics introduces the first automatic robotic tool center point (TCP) calibration solution for tandem torches. Designed specifically to recognize the real world changes that happen in torch geometry during production, this calibration tool features accurate automatic adjustment of your welding program. ToolFind™ can recognize and automatically correct for: torch damage, tandem wire mis-alignment and even excessive wire cast.

Stop by booth #12043 and watch the continuously running demonstration of this revolutionary new product and how it can improve your robotic cells production and weld quality.



ToolFind is a trademark of Wolf Robotics. Patent pending

Control and monitor your manual welding operations ...

The Wolf Cell Control, with its easy to understand graphical touch screen display, controls and monitors the manual welding operation in a typical shop environment. The control can be linked to a manual welding power source to record important process variables. Numerous dashboard screens display menus for tracking important data including arc-on time, weld count verification, weld sequence and length, part count, cycle time, consumables and it can even prevent unwanted parameter adjustments.

Stop by booth #12043 for a personal demonstration of the features and benefits of this semi automation process.



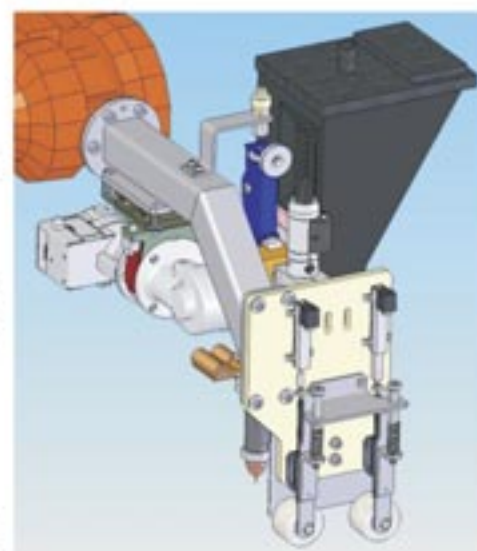
The Ultimate in "High-Deposition" Welding with Robotics

Wolf Robotics successfully introduced the robotic submerged arc welding process at last years Fabtech Show.

Automating the process has many advantages for manufacturers that must adhere to the stringent weld qualities required by ASME regulations.

Learn about the advantages of Submerged Arc Welding with robotics and how it has become a viable alternative to the manual or semi-automatic process.

Visit Booth #12043 for ideas and examples on automating your subarc welding application.



Visit Booth #12043 and see how Wolf Robotics can improve your welding productivity . . .

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RETRO SYSTEMS INTRODUCES HEAVY-DUTY CNC PROFILE CUTTING MEGA HORNET AT FABTECH

Retro Systems announces the MEGA HORNET heavy-duty large CNC plasma and oxyfuel profile cutting machine for shipyards, service centers and large manufacturers.

The MEGA HORNET sets a new higher standard for accuracy, power and reliability in a heavy-duty machine.

A huge frame and massive servo drives will deliver decades of reliable service.

MEGA HORNET is available in widths from 10 feet to 30 feet with rail systems up to 200 feet or more. Options include up to eight plasma systems, 12 oxyfuel torch stations and two Infinitely Rotating Oxyfuel Triple

Bevel Heads.

Retro Systems manufactures a full line of CNC profile cutting machines for the oxyfuel and plasma cutting processes.

Technical sales and service training, product engineering and manufacturing are all done in-house at their factory in Valley Center, Kan.

For more information, write Retro Systems, 430 W. Clay, Valley Center, Kan. 67147, visit www.retroplasma.com, call Allan Holst at 507-437-7200 or email aholst@retroplasma.com. Or, stop by booth 13187 to see the MEGA HORNET in action.

MULTIMASTER 300X MULTIPURPOSE WELDER OPTIMIZED FOR USE WITH FLUX CORED WIRE

ESAB Welding & Cutting Products' MultiMaster® 300X multipurpose welder is a ready-to-weld package that offers superior welding performance for Mig, DC Tig and stick electrode welding. Optimized for use with ESAB's Dual Shield X series of flux cored wire, this machine is ideal for welders currently using stick welding who would like to use flux cored wire. Dual Shield X wires offer advancements that make this new series much more forgiving than traditional flux cored wires, especially for less experienced welders, and give the welder a wider range of operating parameters,

high deposition rates, fast travel speeds, flat bead profile, limited spatter and extremely easy slag removal. This highly productive combination is being demonstrated at FABTECH booth 15001.

ESAB's proprietary Super Switch™ technology on the Multimaster 300X features a high-speed solid-state power control that produces arc performance comparable to that obtained by considerably more complex and expensive power sources and makes welding with Dual Shield wire exceptionally easy. An output preset control with two digital meters allows quick set

up straight from a Dual Shield X series quick setup card. Multimaster 300X offers DC welding output from 15 to 300 amps at 40 percent duty cycle.

Other features include fan on demand, a heavy-duty four drive roll stand with serrated Dual Shield X Series wires in 0.045-inch and 0.052-inch diameters, a 400-amp, 15-ft. gun set up for the same diameters, a convenient, large-capacity tool box, and an "easy-on" cylinder tray. The package includes power source, built-in four-roll wire feeder, factory-installed undercarriage and cylinder rack, torch, contact tips, regulator/flowmeter, electrode holder and plug, and all necessary hoses and cables to make the machine ready to use right out of the box.

The Dual Shield X-Series includes

Continued on Page 10

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Along with the KMT full line of waterjet cutting solution products, the new Streamline™ PRO pump will be on display at **FABTECH, KMT Booth #8004.**

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RETRO SYSTEMS



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Retro Systems invites you to see the **MEGA HORNET** in action at our FABTECH booth #13187 October 6 - 8, 2008 in Las Vegas. Feel free to contact us for a proposal or to schedule a visit to our factory to see a **MEGA HORNET**.

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GENERAL STEEL HOLDINGS ANNOUNCES INTENT TO ACQUIRE YANTAI STEEL PIPE, CO. LTD.

General Steel Holdings, Inc., one of China's leading non-state owned steel products producers, announced it has signed a Letter of Intent to acquire 80 percent of Yantai Steel Pipe Co., Ltd. of Laiwu Iron & Steel Group. Upon completion of the proposed acquisition, Yantai Steel Pipe will become a Chinese-foreign joint venture, for which General Steel will have 80 percent ownership interest and Laiwu Iron & Steel Group will have 20 percent ownership interest. The completion of this acquisition is subject to certain closing conditions, including satisfactory completion of due diligence and execution of the definitive agreement. The company anticipates

providing further details including specific financial terms on this proposed transaction upon consummation of the final definitive agreement.

The joint venture will preserve the existing production systems of Yantai Steel Pipe and build a new production line for hot rolling seamless pipe. The production capacity of the joint venture is designed to be 500,000 to 600,000 tons annually. The main products of the joint venture include oil pipe (tube), boiler pipe (tube), hydraulic pipe (tube) and those used in mechanical structures.

"We are very excited to have signed a Letter of Intent with Yantai Steel Pipe, a company with a 50-year

operating history, an established brand name and a well developed distribution network," says Henry Yu, CEO and Chairman of General Steel Holdings, Inc. He adds, "This is an especially attractive opportunity for us, as Yantai Steel Pipe, and its subsidiary, Yantai Lubao Steel Pipe Co., Ltd, will enable us to generate higher margin revenues through its seamless steel pipe products."

Yantai Lubao Steel Pipe Co., Ltd, a subsidiary of Yantai Steel Pipe, is owned 20.18 percent by Yantai Steel Pipe and 79.82 percent by Baosteel Group Corporation.

Wei Xu, President of Yantai Steel Pipe states, "The steel industry in China is undergoing rapid change and consolidation. The ability to forge a strong working relationship with a forward-looking company like General Steel gives us a great deal of confidence. We are very happy to have signed this letter of intent with General Steel and look forward to a promising future."

About General Steel Holdings, Inc.

General Steel Holdings, Inc., headquartered in Beijing, operates a diverse portfolio of Chinese steel companies. With 4.8 million tons aggregate production capacity, its companies serve various industries and produce a variety of steel products including rebar, hot-rolled carbon and silicon sheet, high-speed wire and spiral-weld pipe. The company has steel operations in Shaanxi and Guangdong provinces, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Tianjin municipality. For more information, visit www.gshi-steel.com.

About Yantai Steel Pipe Co., Ltd.

Founded in 1958 and located in the port city of Yantai in Shandong province, Yantai Steel Pipe Co., Ltd. is a subsidiary of Laiwu Steel Group Ltd. and an established manufacturer of seamless steel pipes and tubes. It has an annual production capacity of 300,000 tons.

Wolf Robotics (Con't. from p. 1)

We currently focus on large and heavy welding applications for two reasons:

- Large and heavy welding is less likely to be exported to low cost countries due to logistics and quality concerns.

- It's a very under-served market. Many companies claim to provide automation for these types of systems, but few can actually deliver. With the added complexity of thru-the-arc tracking, adaptive weld volume control and vision based sensors; you need a very focused and experienced automation partner to address these needs. Many companies that got burned with poor performing automation are looking more carefully when selecting a solution provider for automation.

FSD: What industries/segments currently offer good growth potential in automation?

CN: We are finding that anything associated with energy—oil and petrochemicals, wind and solar are the current leading prospects. Large mining and construction equipment and agricultural products are also growing and we anticipate shipyards to become an important industry, as automation is adapted to their size of part, and parts are designed for automation.

FSD: What are you doing to serve these markets?

CN: Customers have told us they want information now, and we are continuously trying to address their pains. If a system is inoperable, they want to know instantly with remote monitoring. Many companies have system performance measurements that need to be tracked and recorded. We developed a Wolf Cell

Control that does exactly that and we have a group of engineering/software specialist on location that are constantly generating and adapting new products to solve the customers' requirements. This graphical environment even walks the operator through the necessary steps to keep the system in production allowing companies to address the attrition, all too common in this industry.

FSD: What challenges do today's companies face in regards to automation?

CN: Lean manufacturing is the status quo. Companies either don't have large batches to run or they only want to build to order. This requires very quick tooling/fixture changeover and an ability to program robotic systems in parallel with production. Wolf solves these problems with fixture docking systems and off-line part programming.

Fixture docking systems virtually eliminate the need for hand tools when changing tooling/fixturing. In addition, with robot payload capacities increasing, we are able to use a robot to manipulate the work piece in front of other robots, allowing full flexibility and a batch of one manufacturing.

Another real concern in the industry today is the shortage of skilled welding professionals. Even the American Welding Society is predicting a serious decline in qualified welders due to retirement of the existing workforce and the overall image of the occupation. Robots are helping pick up the slack. Improved quality, consistency, and operator health and safety are also key benefits with automation. Many companies see significant cost savings in time and consumables from not 'over welding' the parts, which is quite common in

wires are used in a wide range of industries including civil construction, shipbuilding, heavy equipment, offshore oilrigs and rail car fabrication.

For more information on the MultiMaster 300X and Dual Shield X wires, visit www.esab.com, www.esabna.com or call 800-ESAB-123.

manual welding operations.

FSD: You mentioned programming robots in parallel with production. How's this accomplished?

CN: With today's off-line programming packages, we are able to create a complete virtual system on a computer and simulate the process with an exacting accuracy that requires very little if any touch-up. We currently program 90 percent of our robotic systems off-line. With

close to a dozen engineers on staff using RobotStudio, we are able to generate programs for new systems and customers currently in production. We can help them create new programs or optimize their process and then email them the finished program.

Basically, it's all about how we can best serve the customer by developing new products or improving old processes, ensure product quality and increase manufacturing throughput.



Hacienda del Sol— THE Place to Rejuvenate...

For a traveler on the go, there is the standard safe list of recommended places to stay and sites to see. If Tucson, Arizona happens to make it into your travel plans, there exists a most amazing place to stay and to see. Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch Resort is a 34 acre desert oasis with a legacy dating back to 1929. Back in the 1950's, legendary screen stars such as Tracy and Hepburn made their way to this pristine setting. Today, celebrities, locals and travelers alike have rediscovered Hacienda del Sol for the same reason—luxurious comforts, old world charm and an indescribable sense of well being from the moment one enters the historic gates.

A grand re-opening in 1999 marked the preservation, restoration and refinement of one-of-a-kind casitas, historic rooms and suites. The distinctively beautiful restaurant has been recognized as one of the best in every class. Those in the know, come here to rejuvenate their spirits by simply watching a sunset, reading a book in the historic library, or touring the grounds. Once there, you won't want to leave. Once you've left, you'll be drawn back again and again...

Top 10 Romantic Inns – American Historic Inns; Top 30 Favorite Inns in the United States – Travel & Leisure Magazine; Top 54 Inns in the United States – National Geographic Traveler; "The best stay in Tucson..." – Small Inns & Lodges, The New York Times; "Best Of" Wine Spectator Awards



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ESAB (Con't. from p. 4)

wires for flat, horizontal and all-position welding, in chemistries that meet requirements for multiple weld procedures ranging from general fabrication to critical welding applications. Designed for use with CO2 or mixed gases, Dual Shield X

DYNAMIC KEYNOTE SPEAKERS DEAN KAMEN AND JIM WATERS OPEN FABTECH CONFERENCE

Two dynamic keynote speakers, an American inventor, entrepreneur and tireless advocate for science and technology and a top global expert from Caterpillar, the world's leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment will highlight the FABTECH® International & AWS Welding Show.

Today, Jim Waters, Vice President of the Caterpillar Production System at Caterpillar, will discuss Embracing the Challenges of Manufacturing in a Global Economy. Waters' presentation will focus on how the world is getting smaller and how companies can embrace the international economy to become stronger and more successful. During this forward-looking presentation, Waters will offer reasons why we can, how we can and why we must rise up and take advantage of this competitive challenge.

Tomorrow, inventor and entrepreneur Dean Kamen, founder of FIRST and president of DEKA Research & Development Corporation, will deliver a high-impact presentation on Inspiring Future Generations to Lead the World in Innovation. Kamen will discuss the importance of getting America's youth excited about careers in science, technology and engineering and cultivating an environment that encourages creativity

and risk-taking. Kamen also will assert his belief that innovation is the key to keeping U.S. manufacturing competitive in a global economy.

Waters is leading an enterprise transformation of manufacturing systems at Caterpillar to help set a "gold standard" for quality, safety and speed in industry. He provides leadership to this enterprise effort by drawing on his strong systems and process skills as well as his product and manufacturing management experience gained in Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Waters joined Caterpillar in 1978 and holds a patent, which he received in 1985, for algorithms related to adaptive welding.

Kamen holds more than 440 U.S. and foreign patents for innovative devices that have expanded the frontiers of health care worldwide. Notable inventions include the first wearable insulin pump for diabetics, the HomeChoice™ portable peritoneal dialysis machine, the INDEPENDENCE® IBOT® Mobility System and the Segway® Human Transporter. Kamen also founded FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), an organization dedicated to motivating the next generation to understand, use and enjoy science and technology.

Co-sponsored by the American

Welding Society (AWS), Fabricators & Manufacturers Association Int'l (FMA) and Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and supported by industry partner the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the show is the largest event in North America dedicated to showcasing a full spectrum of metal forming, fabricating, stamping, tube and pipe, and welding equipment and technology. The event is expected to bring in an estimated 20,000 attendees and more than 800 exhibitors. Thousands of buyers and sellers from across the globe are here at the FABTECH International & AWS Welding Show in Las Vegas to exchange products and services, network with peers, preview new products, problem-solve and educate the industry on the latest technologies.

The 2008 show also includes a METALFORM Pavilion that will display innovations in stamping technology. This pavilion was added as a result of the recently announced new strategic alliance with the Precision Metalforming Association (PMA). The first official METALFORM exhibition will take place at the November 2009 show in Chicago.

About AWS

The American Welding Society is the largest organization in the world dedicated to advancing the science, technology and application of welding and allied processes, including joining, brazing, soldering, cutting and thermal spray. AWS provides a variety of industry services, including welding

certifications, educational programs, scholarships and workforce development through its foundation and publications. Visit the society's Web site at www.aws.org.

About FMA

The Fabricators and Manufacturers Association Int'l is a non-profit educational association dedicated exclusively to metal forming and fabricating professionals. FMA brings the metal forming and fabricating community together through networking sessions, educational programs, volunteer opportunities and award programs, and provides the tools and resources needed by companies to improve operations. Visit www.fmanet.org for more information.

About SME

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (www.sme.org) is the world's leading professional society supporting manufacturing education. Through its member programs, publications, expositions and professional development resources, SME promotes an increased awareness of manufacturing engineering and helps keep manufacturing professionals up to date on leading trends and technologies. Headquartered in Michigan, SME influences more than half a million manufacturing practitioners and executives annually. The society has members in more than 70 countries and is supported by a network of hundreds of technical communities and chapters worldwide.

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PAR SYSTEMS TEAMS WITH MML CAPITAL PARTNERS FOR CONTINUED STRONG GROWTH

In July 2008, PaR Systems (PaR) management and MML Capital Partners (MML) teamed to acquire the company from American Capital Ltd. This marks a substantial opportunity for PaR's continued growth.

PaR is a leading provider of specialized material handling and automation equipment, serving a diverse group of Fortune 500 customers in the aerospace, defense, food and beverage, hazardous material management, industrial manufacturing and life sciences industries. With 270 employees, PaR offers complete engineering and manufacturing capabilities. Over the last 25 years, PaR has supplied all of the aircraft elevators and over half of the weapons elevators on U.S. Navy ships (Jered LLC), built the two largest operating robots in the

world, a neutron and x-ray system to inspect jet fighters (PaR Robotics) and one of the world's tallest automated cranes for NASA to inspect the space shuttle's solid rocket motors (Ederer, LLC).

MML's investment in PaR demonstrates the firm's strategy of partnering with a strong management team and providing all levels of junior capital. Commenting on the acquisition, Robert Davies, Managing Director of MML says, "We are very pleased to add PaR to our Fund IV portfolio. PaR represents a strong platform serving very attractive end markets and we look forward to supporting the management team in executing the company's business plan."

Mark Wrightsman, President and CEO of PaR, adds, "The PaR team is

really looking forward to partnering with MML Capital Partners to support the company's growth. MML's strong track record with other management teams became evident to us during this process. After the in-depth review of PaR's past results and growth plans, MML expressed their confidence in our strategy, employees and management. PaR is an excellent fit with MML's high expectations for results that benefit customers and shareholders."

PaR's unique blend of industrial and commercial, as well as aerospace and defense experience continues to provide a rare capability to meet customer's material handling and automation needs in demanding applications.

About PaR Systems

PaR Systems' corporate headquarters and Robotics division is located in Shoreview, Minn., with manufacturing facilities in Shoreview and Brunswick, Ga., engineering offices in Seattle, Wash. and Iron Mountain, Mich., a technology center in Ft. Worth, Texas, and

sales liaison office in Shanghai, China. Founded in 1961, PaR has a rich history of providing specialized and standard automation equipment to industries that include aerospace, defense, energy, food and beverage, government, hazardous material management, industrial manufacturing, life sciences, medical manufacturing, marine, semi-conductor and other specialized markets.

For more information, visit www.par.com.

About MML

MML is an independent investment firm, with more than \$2 billion invested across 11 countries over the past 20 years. It provides capital to businesses for expansion/acquisitions, recapitalizations and leveraged and management buy-outs. Mezzanine Management recently changed its name to MML Capital Partners, and has offices in London, Paris, Frankfurt and Stamford, Conn., and affiliated central European funds with offices in Vienna, Budapest, Warsaw and Bucharest.

GEKA (Con't. from p. 1)

screen control. The table can be fitted on any GEKA dual cylinder deep throat ironworker or any GEKA single station punch.

GEKA has five different models ranging from 60 ton to 240 ton and capacities up to 1-1/2 inch thick mild steel. The operating and programming of the CNC positioning table is quite easy. The operator can enter the program using the touch screen control or can download off of a DFX file. After the program is set, the guides and table move to the first hole position; the operator places the material on the table,

moves it tight against the guides and punches the first hole.

After the guides move to each subsequent location the operator positions the work piece and punches the holes until completion. The hydraulic system on the GEKA allows for punching or using low tonnage for spotting.

The X travel for the table is 40 inches with options up to 216 inches. The Y travel is 16 inches, 20 inches or 25 inches and this is determined by the throat depth of the machine. The speed of both axis is from 24 inches to 480 inches per minute, positioning tolerances plus or minus 0.003.

We have found that the use of this

table eliminates most of the detail work which normally is the biggest labor intensive part of fabricating. This also increases production and accuracy.

A table allows the punching of plates, angles, channels and some extrusions. An optional triple punch is available to allow the customer to select three different diameter or shape punches. Another option available is the oversize punch attachment for up to six-inch diameter.

GEKA's model ALRS is a CNC flat bar feeding system for the shearing station on a GEKA hydraulic dual cylinder ironworker. It is used for shearing flat bar into programmed

lengths and quantities.

The ALRS can work in combination with a semi-paxy table allowing operators to position base plates, connection plates or brackets without laying out a single part after the plate has been sheared to the correct dimensions.

The ALRS comes with 20 feet of in-feed and has a Fagor 102 Control. Twenty-foot additional sections can be added.

COMEQ, Inc. is located in White Marsh, Md. Machines and parts are stocked at the Comeq facility. For more information call 410-933-8500, email sales@comeq.com or contact your local GEKA dealer.

ESAB (Con't. from p. 1)

JH: With more than 100 years experience in the field, ESAB has introduced numerous innovative technologies in the field of welding and cutting, and we continue to research and commercialize new technologies. In addition to offering top quality products, we strive to work with our customers to provide custom solutions to their needs. We have a global network of experts that can be put to work on any problem. Many of our products here in North America are backed by a 100 percent satisfaction guarantee. If you are unhappy with a product you purchase from ESAB, we will fix the problem, replace the product or return your money, so there is never any risk

involved in trying an ESAB product.

FSD: What new product are you introducing this year at FABTECH?

JH: We are introducing two new models in our line of PowerCut plasma cutting machines. One of the problems the fabrication industry faces today is a shortage of skilled labor, so we are continually striving to make our products more user-friendly and easy for almost anyone to learn to use. The new PowerCut 1600 and PowerCut 1300 offer some of these new user-friendly features, including a new digital readout that shows the exact pressure or amperage and displays and Help codes to assist in troubleshooting minor problems. Another new feature is the

Tool-less Quick Disconnect Torch that disconnects from the machine without the use of wrenches or special tools, allowing easy disassembly for storage, repairs or replacement or to attach a mechanized torch for mechanized applications. Other features include Blow Back Technology to eliminate high frequency startups that can disrupt CNC controls and nearby computer systems; an automatic Mode Selection function that senses which cutting mode is in operation [Normal Cutting, Gouging and Grate Cutting] and adapts accordingly; a built-in Power Line Conditioner that protects against damage from power line noise and spikes, even with poor quality power; a Torch Wrap and Spare Parts Kit Holder for convenient storage of the

torch and spare parts; and a Plug-N-Play Mechanized Option that transforms the manual cutting system into a powerful mechanized system for a gantry machine.

The entire PowerCut line is designed to pack big cutting power into a lightweight, portable package, reduce set-up time and enhance consumable life. These machines offer the highest speeds and thickness capabilities in their class, high duty cycles and the lowest cost per foot of cut of any machine in its price class. The new PowerCut packages come with a three-year warranty and an option to purchase an extended warranty for a total of five years. We think these new machines are a great addition to an already popular line of products.

Miller Electric (Con't. from p. 1)

development as well as inverter technology now allows one-knob control of the process. Welders only have to answer a few questions, such as wire and gas type, to receive the benefits of pulsed MIG. In addition, different pulsed MIG machines can be optimized for specific uses.

The Millermatic[®] 350P, for instance, which is designed for smaller fabrication shops, contains pulsed MIG programs designed for the most common types of wires and can provide an aluminum welding solution right out of the box. Similarly, the Miller

Invision[™] 350 MPa (M=MIG, P=Pulsed, a=advanced) contains programs and features suited to high volume manufacturing, while the Miller XMT[®] 350 MPa is a multi-process machine that contains programs for common as well as highly alloyed metals. Miller's proprietary Accu-Pulse[®] and Pro-Pulse[™] are some of the most advanced pulsed MIG programs available and can be found in Miller's Axxess[®] and pipe welding systems.

The benefits include:

- Decreased waste and rework by precisely controlling the heat input into a

weld to avoid burn-through or warping on thin materials, especially aluminum.

- More productive aluminum welding. While it used to require a skilled TIG welder to achieve a good bead appearance on aluminum, pulsed MIG rivals TIG in appearance and can replace TIG in many applications, increasing travel speeds by 30 percent and reducing heat by 50 percent.

- Maintain base metal chemistry. Many applications, such as cladding, require precise control over the heat to maintain the chemistry and properties of the alloy. Pulsed MIG's precision provides this level of control.

- Larger wires, less cost. Pulsed MIG can allow the use of larger diameter wires, which are usually less expensive per pound than the thinner wires. In the case of aluminum wire, they are also easier to feed and less prone to birdnesting.

- Decreased training time. Today's pulsed MIG technology enables new operators to start making production-quality welds in less time, and it gives experienced operators even more control over bead appearance.

Pulsed MIG has come of age. Stop by and see it at the Miller booth, 13077.



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