Machine Tool Builders

ANNOUNCE PERSONNEL CHANGES AND NEW DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

Machine Tool Builders, Inc. (MTB) proudly announces the appointment of **Hans Grass** as the company's CEO. Grass brings a wealth of knowledge and experience backed by 48 years in the machine tool industry, including forty-four years in management roles — most recently (for 5 years) as vice president for the Star SU machine tool group and (10 years) as vice president of engineering (managing both engineering and product development) for Bourn & Koch in Rockford.

Prior positions included various management and sales/service positions with Pfauter, Gleason and Index Corporation. Hans has gained in-depth expertise of gear manufacturing machine tools as well as milling, turning, grinding and other machine tools. He was educated in Germany with a Pfauter machine tool apprenticeship program, complemented by three years of engineering studies.

Machine Tool Builders and Grass have teamed up to formally announce the transfer of G-Technologies North American representation agreement for HAMAI Machines, to Machine Tool Builders Inc. Following the appointment of Grass as CEO of Machine Tool Builders Inc., MTB has assumed the exclusive rights as North American distributor of Hamai's hobbing solutions line.

Established in 1921 Hamai Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan designs, manufactures, and services state-of-the-art N-series CNC horizontal hobbing machines & a GN150 hob sharpener. Having built a solid reputation in the small/medium gear manufacturing industries by supplying fine to medium pitch horizontal hobbing machines for nearly 100 years, Hamai has also earned a solid reputation for their high accuracy, impeccable quality, and highly productive machine tools.

This was an ideal fit for Machine Tool Builders Inc. who was looking to expand their new product offerings and thrilled that Grass and G-technologies allowed them to take on the rights to this line. The transfer of this agreement appoints Machine Tool Builders (MTB) as the exclusive sales, marketing, and support arm for all Hamai's gear hobbing solutions in North America.

When Grass was appointed CEO of Machine Tool Builders Inc. (MTB) he brought with him more than 40 years of expertise in the machine tool industry, his company G-technologies also held an exclusive representation agreement for North America representing Hamai.

"We are delighted to bring the Hamai line to MTB and offer comprehensive gear manufacturing solutions to our customers" notes Grass, president of G-Technologies and CEO of Machine Tool Builders Inc. "MTB's representation agreement with Hamai is a perfect fit, this partnership will allow us to further improve our rapidly growing position in the market by offering high-value products and services that meet our customer's ever changing needs."

MTB issued a statement saying, "We thank Hans Grass and G-technologies for laying the groundwork of Hamai's presence in North America, this provides our customers with another world-class product backed by the MTB name." (*www.machinetoolbuilders.com*)

Global Gear

APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT

Harshad Gujarathi has been named president of Global Gear of Downers Grove, IL, effective June 1. Gujarathi will take over for Cory Ooyen, the outgoing president, who remains with the company in a sales management role.

Gujarathi rejoined Global Gear in March 2020 as vice president of operations, after six years at Reliance Gear in Elmhurst, IL. At Reliance, Gujarathi served in a number of roles, including project manager, plant manager, operations manager and, most recently, managing director (from 2017 until his return to Global Gear in March). Previously, Gujarathi worked for six years as a manufacturing applications engineer at Global Gear and four years as a senior engineer at Jayna Inc. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Sanjeevani Education Society's College of Engineering, as well as a master's degree in industrial and systems engineering from The Ohio State University.

The move is part of a planned transition. In a letter to Global Gear employees, Ooyen stated: "Since the end of 2018 we have started the planning process for the transition of key staffing at Global Gear to support near term retirement plans and put in place a future team for the next many years of the company."

Ooyen continued, "That plan included the recruitment of my successor to insure the right leader was in place and the transition would be smooth, seamless, yet ready for the changes and challenges that Global Gear will face now and in the future.

So with that, I am pleased to announce that effective June 1st, Harshad Gujarathi will take over as President of Global Gear. His past experiences at Global Gear and at Reliance Gear support his desire and ability to assume this role and lead the company. I firmly believe Harshad is the right person to lead and direct these efforts. He needs the team with him to prepare for these challenges at all levels of the company. I will move fully into a sales role to expand our customer and market base and secure the future business to provide growth and future opportunities for all. In the 13 years I have been in the president's role, I can say we have made some tremendous strides in diversification of the business in both customers and markets. I thank all who have supported and played key roles in these efforts. This would not have happened without a crew who dedicated their time and efforts into moving Global Gear from a simple engine timing gear company to a respected and diverse gear supplier to a broad range of applications."

(*www.globalgearllc.com*)

EMAG

OPENS ADDITIONAL OFFICE IN CHARLOTTE

EMAG has expanded its operation in the United States by opening an additional office, EMAG Charlotte, in Charlotte, NC. With this addition, current and prospective customers located in the southeastern portion of the United States have the ability to meet face to face with sales, applications and service personnel. By providing local support, EMAG strives to foster the growth that the industry is experiencing throughout the region.

EMAG Charlotte will operate as a branch office of EMAG LLC, located in Farmington Hills, Michigan, the North American Headquarters for the EMAG Group.

With the growth of EMAG's competitive Modular Standard machine portfolio, accessibility to new users has grown substantially; the Southeast is one of the fastest growing manufacturing hubs in the United States, driving EMAG's strategic decision to open EMAG Charlotte.

The unique configuration of EMAG's turning machine, allows for the automatic self-loading of workpieces. The inverted, traveling spindle architecture creates an ideal environment for cleanliness, optimum chip flow, and unsurpassed

operator access. Coupled with the MINERALIT polymer concrete machine base, EMAG offers the best in class solution for tight tolerance production work. According to data from USMTO, EMAG has earned 87% market share for Inverted Vertical Lathes over the past five years in the United States, and the company is hoping that this move will continue to help them expand.

In addition to EMAG's dominance in the production turning space, EMAG offers a range of technologies catered to similarly sized round parts. These additional technologies include power skiving, laser welding/hardening/cleaning, electro-chemical machining, hobbing, grinding, hard milling, and induction hardening. Linking this vast range of technologies together, allows EMAG's vision statement to become a reality for its customer base, by providing the best "Manufacturing Systems for Precision Metal Components." (*www.emag.com*)

Bourn & Koch

ANNOUNCE NEW PRESIDENT

Bourn & Koch, Inc. recently announced that **Blake Consdorf** has been named president. Consdorf, who was most recently president and CEO of Felsomat USA, Inc. brings over 20 years of relevant industry and leadership experience in machine tools and automation to Bourn & Koch. Prior to Felsomat, Consdorf was divisional president and engineering manager at Acieta, and served as vice president of manufacturing and engineering at Wes-Tech Automation Solutions. Prior president and CEO of Bourn & Koch, Terry V. Derrico, will now serve as president and CEO of Precision Cutting Technologies. (*www.bourn-koch.com*)

Apex Tool Group (ATG)

PROMOTES FRUEHWALD TO LEAD GLOBAL POWER TOOLS

Apex Tool Group (ATG), a manufacturer and supplier of high-performance hand and power tools, tool storage, drill chucks, chain and electrical soldering products for industrial, commercial and demanding do-it-yourself applications, announces that **Bernd J. Fruehwald** has been promoted to senior vice president and president of its global power tools business unit, which includes Cleco, Weller, and APEX.

Fruehwald joined ATG in July 2014 as general manager of Weller Tools. He most recently served as vice president and president of the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) and Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) regions of ATG's global power tools and hand tools divisions.

"In multiple roles with ATG, Bernd has demonstrated the ability to grow market share, establish effective business processes and drive further efficiencies in our European business," said Jim Roberts, CEO. "We look forward to Bernd's leadership of our strategically important power tools business."

Prior to ATG, he held executive roles with Bühler Motor GmbH, a privately-held global manufacturer and marketer of motion control motors, actuators and mechatronic drive solutions. He served as vice president for its industrial and healthcare business units; vice president, Global R&D; and vice president of its PMO office. While at Bühler he was named an officer, and also served on its board of directors.

He holds an MBA from St. Gallen Business School in Switzerland and Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, and earned a mechanical engineering degree from Technical High School Ansbach. (*www.apextoolgroup.com*)

API Metrology

LAUNCHES VIRTUAL SHOWROOM

In addition to their recent development of global studios for Live Web Demonstrations, API has launched a full online Virtual Showroom to support their customer's growing need for online support and resources.

The speed of modern manufacturing is making the business model of a salesman who travels to a customer site with a full equipment line for in-person product demonstrations a luxury that cannot always be indulged.

To support businesses that need information and resources instantly, API is launching a Virtual Showroom. The Virtual Showroom is a continually updated one-stop information portal for API's Products and Services. Inside you can find virtual demos, technical videos, motion brochures, and more for API Products from Radian Laser Trackers and accessories to the API Arm. There are also resources for downloading more information, requesting quotes, or connecting with API directly by phone or email.

Customers will now be able to access detailed videos showing full product demonstrations, feature overviews, and technical discussions to take them through the operation of API's

products inside and out without needing to click through navigation menus or give out personal information. These materials will be available 24/7 to support API's global consumer base.

"The business world requires a new paradigm," says Joe Bioty, president of API. "In-person, onsite support will always be essential, and will always be a cornerstone for API, but decisions happen at lightning speed. There isn't always time to wait for someone to come to you. The Virtual Showroom takes API directly to the customer, putting all of the information about our products and how we can support all manufacturing processes at their fingertips." (*www.apimetrology.com/virtual-showroom*)

Manufacturing Institute

EXAMINES DEMAND FOR RESKILLED WORKERS

During its 8-week shutdown resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, two students enrolled in the eKentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute (eKAMI) secured CNC machining jobs with leading manufacturers, with other companies calling the school with plans to hire new graduates in the coming weeks. Director Kathy Walker sees this interest as an indication that US manufacturing will see a resurgence, with recent surveys showing nearly two-thirds of manufacturers in North American plan to hire domestically instead of sending jobs overseas. "There remains a strong demand for high-skilled positions in advanced manufacturing, particularly in automation and robotics," said Walker, who founded the eKAMI Haas Center along with the Gene Haas organization in 2017 to reskill displaced coal miners and other workers to build the quality workforce needed to attract manufacturing jobs to the region. Students are trained for high-tech positions in CNC machining on the latest, state-of-the-art Haas equipment in 16- and 36-week immersive courses. eKAMI graduates have been hired by companies such as AutoGuide Mobile Robots, Heartland Automation, Roush Yates Engines, Lockheed Martin and Catepillar's Progress Rail.

"The COVID-19 situation revealed serious deficiencies in our domestic supply chain," Walker said. "As a result, we are already seeing signs of a resurgence in US manufacturing, as an increasing number of manufacturers prepare to reshore jobs. Unfortunately, the skills gap remains for higher-level trades, driving the urgent need for automation. Our goal is to respond to industry demand by providing our workforce with the necessary tools to meet that challenge."

Keeping Busy During the Pandemic: Printing and Donating 3D Masks

eKAMI practices what it teaches in terms of responding to market needs with advanced manufacturing techniques. When the school first closed its doors to students in mid-March, staff members suggested putting their advanced manufacturing skills—and the 3D printers—to work. After designing face shields themselves, they have made and donated thousands to rural frontline medical facilities, including hospitals, nursing homes, fire departments, police departments and even correctional facilities, funded in partnership with Pop's Chevrolet and Citizens Bank of Kentucky. According to Walker, the demand hasn't waned, so they will continue making and donating the shields, even with their students now back in the classroom.

"Our staff teaches students how to adapt to rapidly changing environments utilizing innovation to solve manufacturing needs," Walker said. "Using technology skills, but quickly switching gears to mass produce on the 3D printers to create much-needed masks, is one example our students can follow as they return to class to complete their certifications before heading out into the workforce."

Healthcare facilities in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, benefited from eKAMI's innovations. "eKAMI stepped up, responded to an urgent need, and fulfilled it beyond anyone's expectations," said Mayor Les Stapleton. "They rapidly transitioned from producing precision parts to producing medical face shields. When the shortage of quality shields was noted, within days they were producing PPE to be used by our region's frontline EMS and Healthcare workers."

Highlands Appalachian Regional Healthcare Medical Center in Prestonburg was one of the first recipients. "ARH is proud to have a community partner like eKAMI to support our system," said Tim Hatfield, community chief executive officer. "Over the past several weeks, eKAMI has worked to produce 1,750 face shields for our frontline staff. We are truly blessed with Kathy Walker, her team, and her vision of training local folks to meet an industry demand."

"I am so thankful to eKAMI for the design and production of face shields," said Dr. Andy Keaton, of Keaton Orthodontics in Pikeville, Kentucky. "I could not obtain face shields through any of the national dental suppliers. The quality of the face shields was consistent with any I might have purchased from a national supply company."

The Haas eKentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute (eKAMI) launched in 2017 with the goal of building the skilled workforce needed to attract quality, high-paying jobs in manufacturing to the region. Students 18 years and up participate in

16- and 36-week accelerated programs in computer numerical control (CNC) machinery, for the aerospace, robotics, medical and other advanced manufacturing industries.

(*www.ekyami.com*)

Klingelnberg

WINS BEST OF INDUSTRY AWARD FOR THE SECOND TIME

For the fifth year running, the trade magazine *MM Maschinenmarkt* honored outstanding industry innovations with its "Best of Industry Award" on June 25, 2020. In total, 22 companies vied for the prize in nine categories. Klingelnberg was among the lucky winners, receiving accolades in the "Measurement Technology" category for its "Complete Measurement in a Single Stage – Done-in-One" solution.

Already a winner of the prestigious award in 2018 for its "Cyberphysical Production System" in the "Industry 4.0" category, the machine manufacturer once again won over the jury of experts for the "Best of Industry Award 2020." The jury selection was preceded by an online reader vote, which accounted for 50% of the evaluation process. Only select prize-winning industrial products were eligible for the nomination. Qualified nominees included products or solutions from all branches of industry that had already won an industry award in 2019 or had been short-listed, or received the most clicks from readers of the MM trade magazine.

"We are delighted to be among the award winners for the second time," said Dr. Christof Gorgels, head of precision measuring centers. "The award is hugely important for us and once again highlights our innovative capacity in the marketplace." The gala, which could not be held as a live event with an audience as originally planned, was pre-recorded at the event organizer's in-house studio. The video is available to anyone interested on the social media channel YouTube at the website below. During the recording, all nominees and products were presented and, of course, the winners enjoyed a congratulatory speech given by the editorial staff of *MM Maschinenmarkt*. (*www.klingelnberg.com*)

Daubert Cromwell

COMPLETES REACH CERTIFICATION

Daubert Cromwell has successfully completed all the requirements for certification with the European Union's REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals) Regulation. This important distinction means Daubert Cromwell can provide multi-national customers with an uninterrupted supply of VCI papers, films and devices that meet conditions of environmental safety set by the European Chemicals Agency.

REACH requires all companies that manufacture or import chemical substances into the EU to address the potential impacts on both human health and the environment. After years of research into how best to comply with the ruling and meet the packaging requirements of metalworking markets, Daubert Cromwell chose to register substances used in a broad range of best-selling VCI products in the categories of papers, films and devices. The assigned REACH registration numbers cover popular VCI papers MasterShield and PowerShield, and global brands of VCI films including Premium Metal-Guard, ClearPakBIO and ClearPak5000.

"We made a substantial commitment of time, financial and technical resources to meet all of the requirements necessary to be REACH registered," said Daubert Cromwell President & CEO Martin J. Simpson. "Our customers cannot afford to have their shipments into the EU delayed, or rejected, because the packaging used to protect their valuable machinery is not officially registered. We want to provide customers with the quality VCI products they need, regardless of location, without worry they will be held up or penalized for non-compliance."

(*www.daubertcromwell.com*)

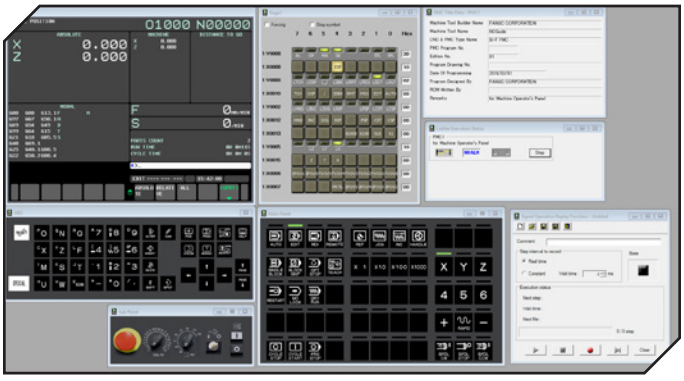
FANUC

OFFERS FREE TRIAL VERSION OF CNC GUIDE

FANUC America is offering a free trial version of CNC Guide – FANUC's PC-based virtualization platform for control design, training and part programming.

To assist machine tool operators and builders through the rough economic times created in 2020, FANUC is offering this simulation tool at no cost. CNC Guide offers an immersive and safe way to learn how to operate CNCs, even for novice operators. Because the software creates digital twins of machine controls, programmers can test G-code programs with no risk of damaging actual machines.

CNC Guide can also help optimize machining operations since users can experiment in the virtual environment with performance-enhancing features in FANUC controls. In addition, the software used in tandem with our conversational programming tool, Manual Guide i, can act as a simplified CAD/CAM package. This platform enables programming on a PC instead of the machine tool, so equipment stays in production to minimize downtime and maximize throughput.



FANUC CNC Guide is not only beneficial for machine tool operators, but also builders. Machine tool builders can get a competitive edge by using CNC Guide to prove out their design concepts faster and get their equipment quicker to market.

This limited-time offer is good only through September 2020 and available to FANUC America customers residing in the U.S. Interested parties need to contact FANUC through the CNC Guide Trial Offering page to get started.

(*www.fanucamerica.com/products/cnc/software/cnc-guide/free-trial*)

QuesTek

ANNOUNCES HIGH-PERFORMANCE STAINLESS STEEL MATERIAL FOR AM APPLICATIONS

QuesTek Innovations LLC, recently announced a stainless steel composition for powder bed fusion additive manufacturing (AM) for use either in the as-printed condition or with a single low-temperature heat treatment. This development is significant because it allows for production of complex, high-strength stainless parts via AM, comparable to wrought 17-4 PH, but without the need for expensive cryogenic processing or high-temperature heat treatment. The project has been funded by the US Navy Small Business Innovation Research program.

Commonly used 17-4 steel in AM often requires higher-cost argon-atomized powder to avoid retained austenite issues and it yields poor properties; however, even properties of argon-atomized 17-4 properties fluctuate widely and are sensitive to the feedstock composition.

Commenting on this development, Dr. Dana Frankel, QuesTek manager of design and product development said, "With QuesTek's QT 17-4 powders, a fully martensitic microstructure is achieved in the as-printed condition. The high temperature solution heat treatment process, required for conventional 17-4, is not needed for QuesTek's alloys, and the resulting properties have less variation."

Two feedstock options are available: QT 17-4 for use in the direct aged condition and QT 17-4+ for use in the as-printed condition. The corrosion resistance and fatigue performance of both designed AM alloys is equivalent or improved over AM material printed using commercially available 17-4 powders.

Although QuesTek's initial effort has focused on powder-based AM, it plans to demonstrate in one or more wire-based AM processes to enable larger component production at lower cost.

QuesTek's new 17-4 powders can be used in a wide range of industries, including aerospace, defense, medical, chemical processing and energy. QuesTek's powder was developed using its proven Integrated Computational Materials Engineering (ICME) technologies and Materials by Design approach.

QuesTek is in discussions with commercialization partners including alloy producers, metal AM machine manufacturers and service bureaus to license these technologies and accelerate commercial adoption. (*www.questek.com*)