machine to specifically meet the demand of the wind energy gear manufacturing community, where large internal and external gears and pinions require highly accurate measuring as well as traditional CMM measuring of prismatic parts," says Keith Mills, president of Xspect Solutions, Inc., the wholly owned subsidiary of Wenzel GmbH. "Traditional gear inspection machines are typically mechanical bearing devices with horizontal arms holding the scanning probe. To simply expand this type of machine design concept that was originally developed to measure 500 mm diameter gears, and apply it to 2,500 mm diameter gears, doesn't work. For that reason, Wenzel has developed this new hybrid machine design that uses an all-granite, air bearing structure, with a bridge-type construction, so the probe can provide a much higher level of dynamics and scanning performance with no mechanical bearing wear over time. In addition, the machine requires no special foundation."

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Robotic Gear Deburring System

AUTOMATES CHAMFERING

Compass Automation unveiled its Robotic Deburring System at Gear Expo 2009. It features a touch screen HMI, so operators can seamlessly upload specs of a custom gear to the robot for automatic deburring or chamfering of gears, even if the customer is not mass producing the same sizes and types. The system is customized to individual specifications, and it can be integrated into existing CNC hobbing machines for complete automation.

"This system will help gear manufacturers reduce operating costs and save valuable time in an application

continued

that tends to be one of their biggest nuisances," says Patrick O'Rahilly, director of Compass Automation, Inc.

"This can truly be a game-changing product for the gear manufacturing industry," says Robert Perly, director of engineering for Compass. "It just does not make sense to allocate human operators to the deburring process. The technology has finally arrived for robots to be able to handle small runs and the varying types and sizes of gears simply and easily."

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Leitz CMM

HANDLES EXTRA LARGE COMPONENTS

Hexagon Metrology announced the Leitz PMM-G gantry CMM series at Gear Expo 2009, featuring improved specifications and extra size availability, so it's appropriate for highly precise inspection of extremely large components, like gears used for wind power, gear segments, gear racks and geared shafts of up to 5,000 mm in diameter.

The PMM-G is configured based on customer specifications. It is made in 55 standard measuring sizes from 3,000 mm x 2,000 mm x 1,200 mm to 7,000 mm x 4,000 mm x 3,000 mm. The maximum part load is 15 metric tons. Gear types suitable for inspection include cylindrical gears—spur, helical, double helical, internal and external spline, internal and external clutch, gear segments and gear racks—in addition to straight, spiral and hypoid bevel