

CHANGING TIMES IN THE METAL CUTTING INDUSTRY

Today, workpieces need to be machined using multiple tools and fast tool change systems are becoming the norm. Article by **heimatec**.

Today, workpieces generally need to be machined using multiple tools, which in turn means that tool changes are required during the machining process. In order to keep the changeover and adjustment times as short as possible, the use of fast tool change systems has become the norm. Here, heimatec, manufacturer of high-precision static and driven precision tools for lathes and machining centers, introduces its wide range of solutions for fast tool changing.

Flexible System

Efficient manufacture is made significantly easier in two aspects. If machine downtimes can be reduced, the productive time increases automatically. By using flexible universal tools, the tool inventory can also be reduced, resulting in cost savings.

heimatec developed the flexible heimatec.u-tec tool change system for this purpose, which allows machining companies to utilise different adapters for a wide variety of machining tasks. The driven heimatec.u-tec tools are designed with a collect chuck mount according to DIN 6499, allowing the user to use the driven tools without additional tool adapters. A special feature of the



heimatec u-tec change system is the short mounting length which ensures exceptionally stable clamping of the cutting tool with low cantilever forces, leading to excellent machining results and a long service life of the cutters.

Reducing Machine Downtimes

The company has developed the easy-quick HT series specially for fast changes in the area of driven and static tools. This means different tool change inserts with market-standard tool mounts can be preset outside the tool machine and when required, can be simply, safely and quickly installed by the machine operator with one hand. With this series, machine downtimes are reduced significantly. In addition, the overall tooling costs are reduced thanks to the multiple and flexible use of the easy-quick base tools.

Fast Tool Changes

heimatec is also extending its range of modular fast change tool systems with the Coromant Capto, which can be used in all machine types. The special advantage is the substantial reduction of the setup and change times, whilst retaining high tool flexibility. Furthermore, it has a compact design

with short projection lengths, which allows high cutting speeds to be achieved with the greatest possible tool flexibility.

Outlook for ASEAN

Times are rough and businesses are changing—prices and market shares are facing higher competition globally. Despite the challenging times, heimatec has seen growth over the past eight years in its Asia markets, including Vietnam, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Japan, China and India. While markets such as India have shown the biggest growth, Vietnam and Thailand are also picking its speed and the company is positive about the outlook in 2021.

The digital world is also hitting the metal cutting industry faster than expected. As such, heimatec is investing in automated manufacturing capabilities and shop floor extension to support its growth in Asia. 🌀

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