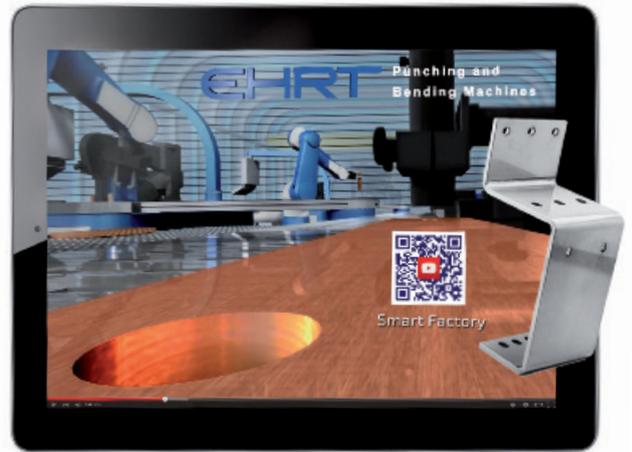


# SMART SOLUTIONS



Nowadays, EHRT tells *ISMR*, it's no longer about a stand-alone machine or system but complete solutions and connected processes.

## ISMR SAYS:

"At this year's Blechexpo, EHRT launched a new Smart Factory gantry system for fully integrated storage"



Above: EHRT's newly launched Smart Factory gantry storage system

Manufacturers producing equipment for the electrical industry (e.g. switchgear production) who are looking for efficient ways to cut, punch, and bend bus bars often use EHRT processing solutions. Based in Germany, EHRT's over 50 years of experience brings the latest CNC technology to bus bar manufacturing. Line options include automation, MultiTool 6-in-1 and high speed punching machines.

At this year's Blechexpo in Stuttgart, EHRT launched a new gantry system for fully integrated storage called the "Smart Factory". It also focused on its PunchPRO production planning software for EHRT punching and bending machines. The nesting software avoids the waste of long scrap pieces. After the production process, it produces reports on production material usage and production times to users.

## Customised solutions

"We have been very busy over the last few weeks at several exhibitions (Blechexpo, FABTECH and TolExpo)," Matthias Winkelhoch, EHRT's sales manager, told *ISMR*. "At this time of year, people want to place orders for next year. Over the last three or four years, we have grown from 30 to 40 employees and are on a continuous growth path. We are a family-

owned company with a long-term view on the market, founded in 1963."

At Blechexpo, EHRT showcased two connected punching and bending machines. A screen on the booth showed its Smart Factory solution, originally launched as a concept at EuroBLECH last

year. The machines can process material of up to 20mm with durable tools especially manufactured to handle these thicknesses. Its PunchPro production planning software, to handle flat material bending as well as punching, was also on display.

"Our customers are processing with limited resources. The bulk of them work in the electrical industry, handling materials such as copper and aluminium, and have limited resources and labour so they really need to be as efficient, flexible and productive as possible. Batch sizes can often range from one to 100. Our machines can cope with low set-up times and we have a new tool-change system that is easy and quick to use for production 'on demand'. Customised production is important and this fits the smart factory principle," continued Winkelhoch.

"For example, we recently sold a high-end automated bending, punching and storage solution to customers in Switzerland, Scandinavia and the US. It features an automated production plan and can run 'lights out' 24 hours per day. Another similar solution was equipped with several new processes such as drilling and deburring units. These are all customised solutions."

## Making connections

"We want to put a customer focus on costs and deliver tailored solutions. This requires strong collaboration with customers to develop customised solutions. We need to keep thinking about the complete value chain i.e. creating interfaces to other processes. It is not just about bending and punching but also grinding, drilling and everything around those processes. PunchPro is a good example of this – it was released at the end of last year but is still under development and we continue to keep adding features to it and incorporating customer ideas," added Winkelhoch.

Nowadays, EHRT told *ISMR*, it's no longer about a stand-alone machine or system but complete solutions and connected processes. The company has had to become more flexible to provide solutions to its company users. Some are more focused on the smart factory concept and EHRT has geared itself towards Industry 4.0.

"The Smart Factory is also about flexibility (of interfaces etc.), not just data exchange. EHRT offers a modular system. Every solution can be easily customised. This has meant a change in philosophy and a shift in thinking for us," explained Winkelhoch.

"Software is becoming more important. There will be an increasing number of connections between processes and the Internet of Things is on the horizon. Making machines intelligent is what we do. However, although Industry 4.0 is a very big topic in the media, we shouldn't forget that there are also smaller solutions that might fit better than a 4.0 concept. So we cover the complete range of solutions, standard as well as customised."

For further details, please see [www.ehrt.de](http://www.ehrt.de)

