



PUNCHING AND BENDING

EHRT gave *ISMR* a tour of its booth at EuroBLECH, showcasing its new thread-forming MultiTool and punch/bending line developments

EHRT Maschinenbau has been developing and producing punching and bending machines since 1963. Its CNC machines have made it a specialist in copper and aluminium working, particularly for the precision machining of flat materials for the switchgear sector.

At EuroBLECH 2014, it displayed its first thread-forming MultiTool for material of up to 13mm thick; up to 32 tools for fully automatic processes and EHRT nesting software to optimise material usage and systems with punching capability for material of up to 20mm thick and 260mm width.

"Our systems can provide up to 80 tons of punching force for thick and hard materials

(e.g. steel). Productivity is increased by over 40% and there are up to four thread-forming tools in one station. The EHRT award-winning product range includes complete processing (cutting, punching and bending) of copper, aluminum or steel," Richard Neuhoﬀ, Sales Director, EHRT, told *ISMR*.

The move to automation

"We are very proud to showcase our new punching/bending line, the basis for completely automated production, here at EuroBLECH," added Richard Neuhoﬀ. "Production will be completely automated punching (storage system, material optimisation – nesting

software) and automatic links from the CAD system to the bending machine. The first line will be shipped this year and we have already sold four complete systems (mainly in the US) and are looking to sell at least two other lines this year.

"Since 2010, we have enjoyed growth levels of around 10-15%. We invested in a new production line this year, doubling our capacity as a result, which means that we can concentrate now on developing completely new solutions. We are working on a new bending machine at the moment with automated connections to the punching machine – it should be ready within the year. The first basic machine will be produced at the beginning of next year and then we will start, step by step, to automate it."

Neuhoﬀ identified production automation as a key market trend, especially for high cost manufacturing countries. The volume of simple bending and punching machines is decreasing, he said, whilst sales of CNC bending and punching systems are rising. The difficulties of finding skilled labour in some countries contributes to this, he told *ISMR*.

"This new type of bending machine is our biggest target for development next year and will differentiate us from our competition. We have already invested a significant amount in punching machine technologies and the next step will be the development of our bending solutions."

EHRT standard bending machines enable bending of single pieces and small batches just as accurately and efficiently as series-produced parts. Due to a calculated spring back compensation and the use of electronic tools, bending accuracy of +/- 0.2° can be achieved, beginning with the first piece. A plug-in system enables quick and easy tool change. With a bending force of 200kN, the EB 20 CNC is able to bend materials of up to 200mm wide and 30mm thick. EHRT bending features a CNC stop with a traverse path of approximately 2000mm.

The basic machine supports mobile use and can be transported to a construction site with little effort. It is suitable for serial production with an NC stop, a work bench and Windows® Software. Its modular construction offers users easy entry into EHRT bending technology.

For more information, see www.ehrt.com. ■



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