

Open house season

With the 2013 XYZ Machine Tools' Open House season now completed, the company says many machines were sold at events at showrooms in England (Blackburn, Nuneaton, Devon, Sheffield), and the recently opened Livingston, Scotland, venue.

This record breaking run was led by the open house at Blackburn, which saw orders for 23 machines taken over the two days at a value of close to £1 million.

Nigel Atherton, MD, says: "So far the open houses have generated orders for 66 machines, valued at over £2 million; we can now start to



look forward to 2014, with a new series of open house events and the MACH exhibition already generating interest for us."

XYZ will start its 2014 open houses with events at its Waltham Abbey showroom (15/16 January) and with the official opening of its Newcastle on Tyne showroom (19/20 February).

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Burnout protection



ESAB oxygen regulators incorporate built-in Regulator Burn-Out (RBO) protection, which contains oxygen regulator fires when used properly.

Oxygen regulator bodies are machined from solid brass bar stock that provides a thick wall that helps contain a burnout. With the size of internal body cavities kept to a minimum, the amount of gas that can accumulate is limited. The solid design also contributes to the durability of the regulator.

The design features a long, narrow passage that sharply diminishes the intensity of any fire that might enter from the inlet connection, reducing the possibility that the regulator will explode.

Massive baffle plates protect the diaphragm and keep it away from the main gas stream. The neoprene diaphragm is not directly exposed to hot gas or fire that could destroy it.

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Giant blast room

A self-contained blast-room with an internal volume approaching 2000m³ and a high-capacity media recycling system has been completed by **Hodge Clemco** for the Jack Tighe Group in Scunthorpe, UK, enabling it to considerably increase the size and weight of structures and components that can be processed there.

The room measures 30m long x

8m wide x 8m high and can accept loads to 40t. Double doors at one end provide a 7m x 7m opening. Walls and roof are constructed from prefabricated mild steel panels covered with full-height rubber curtains. The concrete floor is protected with steel plate to retain a smooth, safe surface. Two personnel doors have been fitted and all doors are interlocked with the blasting system to prevent it being used if one is open.

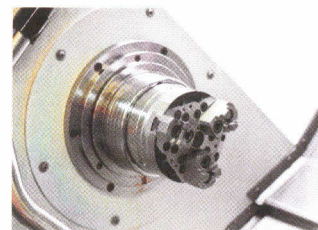
Abrasive is recovered by means of a sweep-in hopper, a bucket elevator and a cleaner/separator that delivers clean graded material to a 10t-capacity hopper designed to feed up to four blast machines and allow about 10h of blasting. The cleaner/seperator removes fines, dust and over-size contaminants, which are then delivered automatically to bins for disposal. The equipment can be adjusted to ensure only suitable abrasive is re-used.

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Three-in-one solution

Available from **Leader Chuck Systems**, a new compact modular system from Hainbuch is said to redefine jaw clamping and mark the beginning of a new era in workholding.

The Jaw Module is flexible, can be quickly changed, and covers a large clamping range. Available in two sizes, the 144 clamps from 25 to 115mm, and the 215 clamps from 25 to 200mm diameter. The system is suitable for sensitive clamping and delicate components, can be used as a pick-up chuck on sub-spindles, and is suited to stationary prismatic



applications.

Together with the Hainbuch Spanntop chuck, Jaw Module forms a quick-change clamping solution. Mandrels and clamping heads can also be used in the basic unit, with quick and repeatable set-up. The new module completes the circle and provides a new clamping dimension that opens up even more possibilities for users.

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Geared up for wire erosion work

Jaguar Land Rover's drive to re-shore tooling and components for its automotive products created an immediate need for additional wire EDM capacity at Pontypridd Precision Engineering. An Excetek V350 CNC wire EDM machine tool from **Warwick Machine Tools** provides the solution.

Mike Price of Pontypridd



Precision Engineering explains that its customer, Calsonic Kansei, gave it the opportunity to quote for the tooling for a JLR project. The tooling required an extensive amount of wire erosion work and, while the company had a CNC wire erosion machine, it would not have been able to cope with the extra workload. Warwick Machine Tools' solution is an Excetek V350 CNC wire EDM machine tool.

The Excetek V350 is capable of accommodating workpieces to 700 x 500 x 215mm and weighing up to 450kg. It has U and V axis travels of 80mm and $\pm 30^\circ$ taper capability.

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Switchable ranges

Seven press force sensors from **Kistler Instruments** provide full coverage from 0.1 to 700kN. The ability to switch the measuring range, when using suitable amplifiers, bolsters this advantage to meet the needs of production and measuring stations handling a greater variety of parts.

The piezoelectric sensor element provides a compact design with a low sensor weight, offering smaller dimensions and mass than many equivalent strain gauge devices. The wide-range measuring chain is also said to offer critical advantages in laboratory applications, where frequent changes of sensor are common practice and the high degree of overload protection eliminates the need for involved protective measures when using the lowest measuring ranges.

The seven force sensors have been developed for use in production environments, especially for quality assurance monitoring in assembly applications. The sensors are supplied as standard with 1, 10 and 100% measuring range calibrations. In most applications, the sensors may be fitted directly into presses, punches and rams. Where this is not possible, a variety of flanges and adapters are available.

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