

PRESS RELEASE

Corneliusstraße 4
60325 Frankfurt am Main
GERMANY
Telefon +49 69 756081-0
Telefax +49 69 756081-11
E-Mail presse@vdw.de

From Sylke Becker
Tel. +49 69 756081-33
Email s.becker@vdw.de

www.metav.de

Intelligent software solutions master metrological tasks METAV 2018 showcases flexible utilisation options for the digital twin

Frankfurt am Main, 09. January 2018. – The challenges entailed by the omnipresent Industry 4.0 hype are immense: integration into flexible manufacturing processes, assuring process stability and production quality. Metrological technology has a particularly exacting remit in this context: fewer measurements in the measuring room – more measurements at the line itself. Solutions of this kind increasingly have to be integrated into a self-organising production environment. Stefan Staab, Product Manager KMG (Coordinate Measuring Machines) at Wenzel Group GmbH & Co. KG, Wiesthal, explains what role modern-day metrological technology can and must play here.

What contribution can modern-day metrological technology make towards product optimisation in a networked manufacturing environment?

Stefan Staab: Close-to-production measurements featuring the requisite measuring-process capability enable results to be incorporated directly in the process. For example, measures can be initiated at upstream

production steps, and downstream production steps adapted to suit the conditions and preconditions involved.

How smart is present-day metrological and testing technology – is there practicable data access via web portals or using smartphone/mobile-phone apps?

Stefan Staab: As one of the major innovators in metrological technology, we are continually design-enhancing our measuring and testing technologies. In the context of Industry 4.0, too, we are steadily expanding our product range, and demonstrating in specific applications how manufacturing companies can benefit from the ongoing digital transformation. With our smart Intelligent Machine Interface (IMI) software package, the measuring instruments are equipped with a new level of intelligence. This collects and analyses performance-related information, and enables the measuring machines to be remote-controlled. So the ongoing status of all measuring machines is visible at a glance. A simple double-click calls up more detailed information at any time. That can be done both from the workplace and by using mobile devices like smartphones or tablets. This access and this sensitive data transfer are subject to extremely stringent security requirements and conditions, all of which serves to ensure that no data can be unexpectedly viewed and utilised by unauthorised persons.

This software solution offers extensive options for controlling and analysing the metrological tasks involved, the workpieces being measured, and the machines employed for this purpose, thus providing information for the user that is now available for life to the workpiece and the measuring machine as a digital twin, and enables it to be intelligently and flexibly used.

What role do simulation technologies play for process optimisation?

Stefan Staab: In the context of Industry 4.0, which for us is more than a buzzword, a huge array of different simulation technologies are gaining steadily in perceived importance. We regard it as vital to generate real benefits for our users from the technologies we develop. Right from the start, we analysed what Industry 4.0 specifically means for our products and processes.

What are you expecting in this area from the METAV 2018 in Düsseldorf – what will you be exhibiting there?

Stefan Staab: The METAV is for us a key element in our trade fair planning. We are once again expecting numerous trade visitors who are specifically interested in measuring and testing technologies, and are looking forward to new contacts and instructive conversations. We shall be showcasing our high-performance bridge machines in the LH series as a line-integrated solution with automated part detection and automated pick-and-place robots. We shall also be exhibiting another bridge machine from the LH series in conjunction with the revolutionary Revo-Multisensor 5-axis measuring system from Renishaw. This solution offers excellent measuring flexibility without any loss in accuracy, and achieves significantly shorter throughput times compared to conventional measuring systems. Other highlights at the fair will include our Intelligent Machine Interface software package and the new generation of our successful Core high-speed scanning system, which has now been performatively enhanced, offers automatic environment protection, and is ideally suited for automation. In addition, we have expanded our successful Exact computer tomograph series for measuring and testing complex internal and external structures to include a recently developed system that sets new standards in terms of performance and measuring volume.

Author: Walter Frick, specialist journalist from Weikersheim

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Profile

The Wenzel Group is a market leader in the field of innovative metrological technology and offers a comprehensive product portfolio in the categories of coordinate metrology, gear metrology, computer tomography, optical high-speed scanning and styling solutions. Technology from Wenzel is used in all branches of industry, not least in the automotive, aviation, energy production and medical sectors. Subsidiaries and agencies in more than 50 different countries support the sales operations and assure responsive after-sales service for the customers.

Contact persons

VDW (German Machine Tool Builders' Association)
Sylke Becker
Press and Public Relations
Corneliusstrasse 4
60325 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
Tel. +49 69 756081-33
s.becker@vdw.de
www.vdw.de

Wenzel Group GmbH & Co. KG
Steffen Hochrein
Presse und PR Manager / Press and PR Manager
Werner-Wenzel-Strasse
97859 Wiesthal
Germany
Tel. +49 6020 201-6114
Fax +49 6020 201-666114
steffen.hochrein@wenzel-group.com
www.wenzel-group.com

Editorial Office Frick
Walter Frick
Hölderlinstr. 2
97990 Weikersheim
Germany
Tel. +49 7934 990021
redaktionsbuero@walter-frick.com

Background: the METAV 2018 in Düsseldorf

The METAV 2018 – 20th International Exhibition for Metalworking Technologies – will be held from 20 to 24 February in Düsseldorf. It will be showcasing the entire spectrum of production technology. The keynotes will be machine tools, manufacturing systems, high-precision tools, automated material flow, computer technology, industrial electronics, and accessories. These will be complemented by the new themes of Moulding, Medical, Additive Manufacturing and Quality, which are firmly anchored in the METAV's exhibition programme in what are called "Areas", each with its own nomenclature. The visitor target groups for the METAV include all industrial sectors that work metal, particularly machinery and plant manufacturers, the automotive industry and its component suppliers, aerospace, the electrical engineering industry, energy and medical technology, tool and mould construction, plus the metalworking and craft sectors.

You will find texts and pictures for the METAV 2018 on the internet under www.metav.de in the Press Service section. You can also visit the METAV through our social media channels



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