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NEWS & TRENDS IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

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The countdown has started:

BRANKAMP to present entire performance spectrum at the EMO

The EMO in Milan is a very significant trade fair even for BRANKAMP. For one week, the North Italian metropolis will see top companies in the metal industry pouring in from all over the world. Besides, with its highly developed industry, Italy itself is a very important market.

Round appearance: BRANKAMP on the EMO 2001 in Hannover

MILAN: MECCA for metal workers

„The EMO really is enormously significant", confirms Professor Dr. Klaus Brankamp." This is why we will be presenting our entire performance spectrum there." As a world market leader this means that BRANKAMP will be taking its highly modern ProcessMonitoring systems for every line of business—from cold forming to punching to metal cutting—along to Milan. „I believe our customers will also find this to be highly interesting. Their main focuses may be different, but many use machinery in their production that comes from all these areas."

Among the most exciting new developments is an inexpensive monitoring technology using a camera that will in future make time-consuming inspection rounds a thing of the past.

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Tornos lathes cooperates with BRANKAMP

BRANKAMP is, with immediate effect, the official partner of the lathe manufacturer Tornos, whose headquarters are in Moutier, the French-speaking part of Switzerland. On request, Tornos' customers can now obtain BRANKAMP ProcessMonitoring systems directly via the machine tool builder. The cooperation has initially been set to run for two years.

TORNOS

Express message

wire Tokyo postponed

The organiser Mack Brooks has informed that the wire Tokyo show is not going ahead. The next wire show will take place in Düsseldorf from 29th of March to 2nd of April 2004. BRANKAMP looks forward to present the latest highlights in ProcessMonitoring on the wire 2004.

WIRE Tokyo

The special issue:

page 3

"Costs down thanks to ProcessMonitoring (part 2)"

News

HELPRO UNDER BRANKAMP ROOF

BRANKAMP has taken over the Process-Monitoring division (Helpro) of the Swiss manufacturer Desys. Helpro, the successful line of products found among market leaders as in Italy, will be continued as an independent brand.

HELPRO

TOYOTA INCREASES PRODUCTION IN EUROPE

The Japanese car manufacturer, Toyota, is increasing its production in its facilities in England and France by adding a new shift. As a result, the company anticipates an additional 116,000 cars to come off the assembly line each year.

GM PLANT PISTON DISPLACEMENT SWITCH-OFF

As of 2005, General Motors is planning to offer a piston displacement switch-off for its models, according to which the cylinders are to be used depending on the load. As maintained by GM, this would help increase the range of a car by 8 %.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

„I consider it an incredible waste of resources when a superbsly qualified engineer works a mere 38 hours per week."

Henning Kagermann, Chairman of the Board at SAP

NEWS

Research expenditure: Car industry in the lead

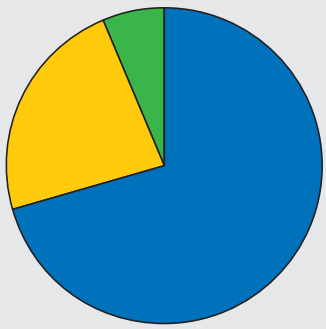
The list of research expenditure is topped by the German car industry—15.1 billion Euro in the last year alone. This corresponds to a third of the research costs of the entire German economy.

BRANKAMP develops business in India

The sales of ProcessMonitoring-systems in India has been developed very well, that the resume of BRANKAMP. The agent could present already a cuple of lucrative orders.

FIGURE OF THE MONTH:
DECLINE IN SALES IN MASSIVE FORMING

Sales of massive forming products in 1,000 tons in 2002



100 cold extrusion parts

365 open-die forgings

1,113 die-formed parts

Source: Official statistics / IDS

With a total of 1,578 million tons of massive forming parts, manufacturers sold around two per cent less in 2002 than in the previous year. The lowest share of 100,000 tons falls to cold extrusion parts, followed by open-die forgings with 365,000 tons. The unchallenged number one continue to be the die-formed parts.

A look at USA

BRANKAMP at the IFFI 2003

Having operated on the US American market for decades now, BRANKAMP introduced its new developments at the „Industrial Fastener & Forming Tradeshow“ in Rosemont near Chicago at the beginning of June. Taking stock at the end of this event, BRANKAMP's Authorised Officer, Hans Peter Schneider, concluded that „our participation was a complete success“. Currently, USA is witnessing a trend towards a relocation of production facilities to more favourable countries. „With our systems, companies in the USA are able to produce at more marketable prices“, claims Schneider.

Another focal point besides the new BRANKAMP developments was the AccuForm 2000 Process-Monitoring system from Textron

Systems, for which BRANKAMP has world-wide exclusive selling rights.

The Helpro ProcessMonitoring range of products introduced on page 1, which was taken over by BRANKAMP, was also presented at the IFFI at its own stand.

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BRANKAMP to present entire performance spectrum at the EMO

A new large screen that can display the masks of four ProcessMonitoring systems simultaneously will also be presented for the very first time.

In addition, visitors to the fair will be witnessing some live production at the BRANKAMP stand. The punching process of a press with ProcessMonitoring system and a clinching tool from Co. Eckold operating with BRANKAMP ProcessMonitoring technology can be observed „in action“. Furthermore, the machines at the fair stand will be networked via Factory Net. Visitors will also be able to satisfy themselves as to the effectiveness of the BRANKAMP systems by means of a live transmission from one of the company's production halls in Germany, allowing them via the Internet to take a look behind the scenes.

On the whole, the EMO organisers anticipate around 1,400 exhibitors and 150,000 visitors in the week of the event from 21 – 28 October. It would also mean a great success for Pier Luigi Streparava. After all, as the new commissioner, the 61-year-old boss of the Italian automobile supplier of the same name is, for the first time, responsible for the organisation of the international sector meeting. Signore Streparava is hereby cordially invited to visit the BRANKAMP stand **(hall 14 II, 2nd floor, stand C 07).**

Press Release

SKF sold component manufacturing in the Netherlands to US based NN, Inc.

SKF has sold its component manufacturing operations in Veenendaal, The Netherlands, to US based NN, Inc.

The Veenendaal plant manufactures rollers for tapered roller bearings as well as cages for both tapered and spherical roller bearings. The yearly production value amounts to about 400 MSEK and the operation employs 360.

NN, Inc., a Nasdaq quoted company, pays 200 MSEK for the Veenendaal business and will take over the operation as from today.

SKF has also sold its 23% holding in NN Euroball ApS to NN, Inc. for 125 MSEK. NN Euroball is the joint venture created by SKF, NN, Inc. and FAG in 2000 for the production of steel balls in Europe.

At the same time, SKF acquires 4,5% of the shares in NN, Inc., for 50 MSEK.

The capital gain of these transactions amounts to approximately 90 MSEK. A provision of a similar amount will be made in the second quarter for restructuring activities within the SKF Group.

Göteborg, May 2, 2003
Aktiebolaget SKF
(publ.)

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Siemens Power Generation produces steam turbines for power plants such as the VeAG location, Schwarze Pumpe in Garzweiler; small picture : Testing of the first two rows of blades of a SIEMENS gas turbine coated with a special heat-resistant alloy.

SIEMENS AG relies on BRANKAMP

Costs down thanks to ProcessMonitoring (part 2)

For nearly two years, Siemens AG in Mülheim an der Ruhr has been backing ProcessMonitoring systems in its power generation division. In its production of blades for power plant turbines, the company uses BRANKAMP-CMS devices for collision monitoring at its 25 high-speed mill-cutting treatment centres. Due to its great user-friendliness, this new technology was readily accepted.

In parallel with the ProcessMonitoring, Siemens also introduced semi-autonomous group work to the turbine-blade area in Mülheim. Production continues seven days a week, each day being split into three shifts. Four groups work each shift, whereby four men work together autonomously in each group. „Many collisions were simply caused by human error," explains engineering graduate Grzegorzek. „By giving more responsibility to the employees, we were also able to reduce the operating errors."

At Siemens Power Generation, responsibility also means that all operators of the CNC controlled machines must program the machining operations themselves. „This is part of our philosophy," states Grzegorzek. „We prefer to have all-rounders rather than narrow specialists. Ultimately, the big advantage of this is that we are considerably more flexible. And, here too, BRANKAMP has been an important help."

Control-integrated ProcessMonitoring from BRANKAMP at Siemens Power Generation in Mülheim/Ruhr

ProcessMonitoring helps with the time-consuming machine setup

In the turbine-blade area, each production series incurs around 30 minutes of programming work for the operators. The setting-up phase takes about an hour and a half on average, and is particularly critical. It is during this phase that ProcessMonitoring also plays a decisive role. „The workers use the BRANKAMP units above all when setting up," explains Grzegorzek.

At Siemens, this procedure quickly paid for itself. „Since we started working with BRANKAMP we haven't had any more serious collisions," informs the Head of Maintenance. If programming or operating errors do arise when setting up, the machines are immediately stopped automatically by the BRANKAMP units, thereby avoiding serious consequential damage.

In practice, for Siemens this has above all meant that the expensive replacement of spindles could be reduced to a minimum. „We used to have an average of 1.2 to 1.3 defects per machine per year in this area." In the twelve months since introducing ProcessMonitoring, this quota has been reduced to 1.0. „These days, we only replace the spindles one a year. And that's only because of perfectly normal wear and is therefore a purely preventative measure."

With ProcessMonitoring, the rate of machine defects has decreased

A knock-on effect is that the machine availability at Siemens Power Generation in Mülheim has significantly increased. „We used to have around 82 percent (machine availability) in the turbine-blade area. Nowadays we are achieving about 97 percent," states Grzegorzek. Thus, his appraisal of the new technology also turns out to be unequivocal: „The introduction of ProcessMonitoring was exactly the right step for us. In the space of just one year our investment has been completely recovered."

part 1 of the article, please, visit us on homepage www.brankamp.com

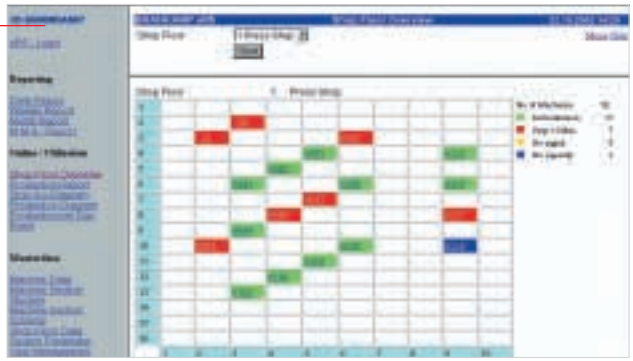
Online Production Monitoring

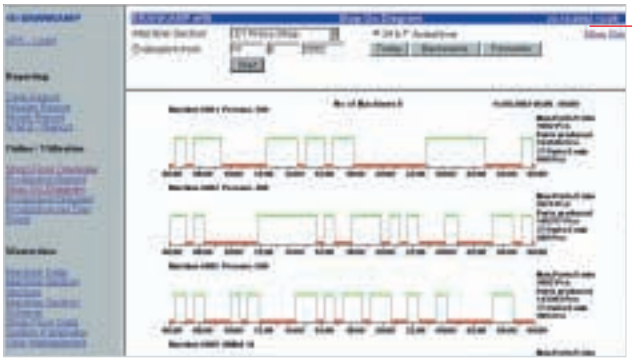
Transparency in production at low cost

The BRANKAMP eR5 online production monitoring system ensures transparency of the production process. With it, key production data can very easily be retrieved from anywhere at any time.

The workshop overview displays the current operating state of production machinery by way of a clear chart. The machines are arranged in a grid as actually positioned in the workshop. Their coloration shows the current machine status:

green: machine is producing
red: machine is idle
blue: machine is not producing



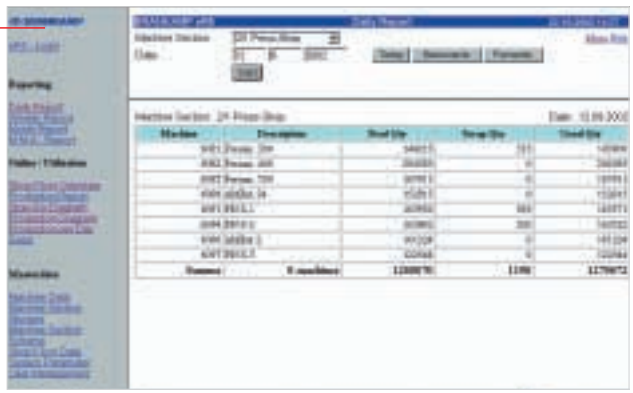


The stop-and-go diagram records the runtime behaviour of the machines of an operating area. The operating states of the machine are shown in colour.

green: machine is running
red: machine is idle

In addition, the maximum and average outputs per 5 minutes and the currently produced quantity of each machine are shown.

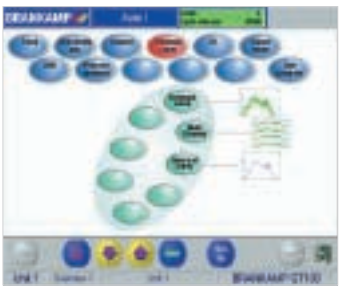
The daily, weekly, and monthly report enables a machine-related comparative evaluation of the quantities produced each day, week, or month. These evaluations compare the production results of one or all machines of the selected operating area.



User-friendliness

Navigator – Simple direct jumps with the BRANKAMP GT 100

The navigator of the BRANKAMP GT 100 displays all the menu items at a glance, enabling the worker to navigate very simply and intuitively through the clearly arranged functions.



In addition to the respective menu subitems, the worker will also see a miniature preview of the corresponding evaluation mask.

From here, the worker can go directly to the required mask. The selection is made by way of a modern touch screen or the innovative one-button control.

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