

Turning centre

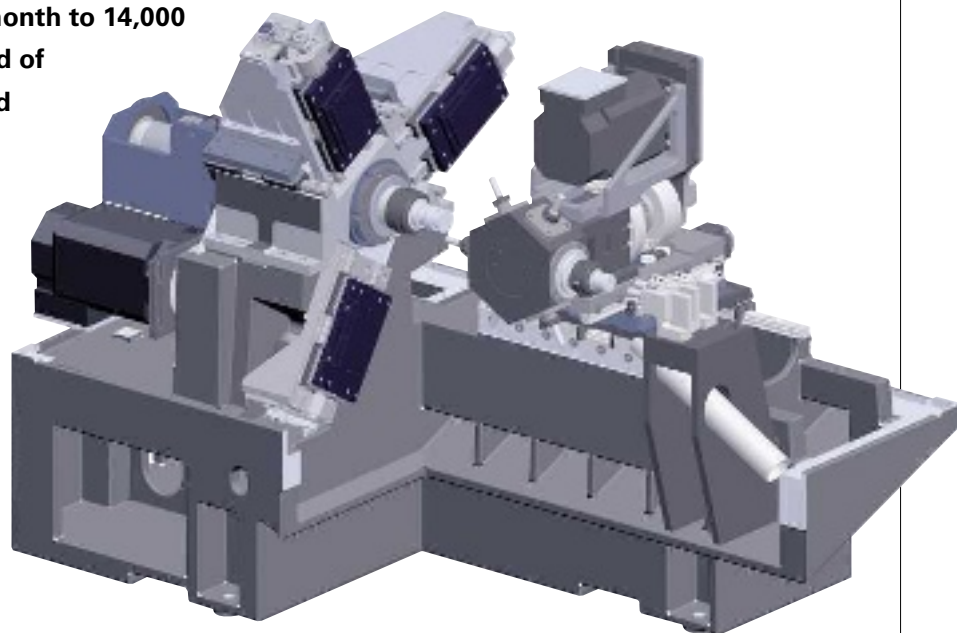
SIMODEC will open its doors next month to 14,000 visitors destined to discover a myriad of international exhibitors within. Steed Webzell previews the action

Seventy-eight companies will be exhibiting for the first time at SIMODEC, indicating the current favourable business climate for screw-cutting technology.

Held biennially since 1954, the show has become an institution that unites manufacturers and suppliers at the centre of the screw-cutting sector. SIMODEC on 4-8 March will bring together over 250 exhibitors specialising in machine tools, machine tool accessories, tooling, automation and metrology in La Roche sur Foron, France (which has the world's highest geographical concentration of screw-cutting companies).

The manufacture of fasteners is, of course, historically linked to cam autos. Today, however, visitors to SIMODEC will be able to choose from a plethora of high specification CNC multi-spindle automatic models. Alongside exhibitors with a speciality in this technology area, such as Index, Schutte and Wickman, will be Tornos, a company that will use the show to launch two new products: the MultiSigma 8x24 and the Deco 13e. The stand will also showcase the new Micro 7 (launched at EMO), which has been designed to replace cam-type machines.

With the Tornos MultiSigma 8x24, it is now possible to machine multiple parts of nominal complexity with integral automation that includes palletising and part manipulation with an investment more compatible with less highly specified machines, while Tornos says that its Micro range of machines is the only one that can produce parts within a



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±1 micron tolerance on repeated production runs.

Alongside prominent barfeed manufacturers such as IEMCA (Kitagawa Europe) and LNS, turning is also well represented by exhibitors such as Star, Haas and Gildemeister (DMG). The latter will spotlight four machines that represent the latest developments in universal, multi-slide, sliding-head, linear driven turning technology.

The Gildemeister models under power will include the latest MSL 42-7 7-axis multi-slide automatic, a CTX310eco universal lathe, a Speed 20-8 sliding-head lathe and a high speed 8-axis linear-driven Sprint 42. A highly flexible 7-axis, 42 mm bar capacity multi-slide single spindle automatic lathe, the MSL 42.7 will be demonstrating its machining capability to produce components using up to four tools simultaneously via its Y-axis turret, three cross slides and fully integrated pick-up spindle.

Another innovation certain to catch the eye is the new Multistep XT-200 linear transfer machine from Mikron Machining Technology which it is claimed combines the productivity of a transfer machine with the changeover flexibility of a machining centre. Its individual, fixed dual-spindle modules offer a short chip-to-chip time advantage.

Associated products and equipment, including cutting fluids (Blaser, Fuchs), cleaning/surface finishing (Durr [Geo Kingsbury], Rosler), metrology (Hexagon, Mitutoyo, OGP, Tesa) and CAD/CAM (Delcam) should not be overlooked.

Delcam's PartMaker Division will demonstrate the latest release of its SwissCAM software for programming Swiss-type lathes that features SwissCAM features enhancements to the system's synchronisation functionality, improvements in 3D simulation, CAD drafting, the handling of solid models and optimised 3D milling operations. □