

# Sparks set to fly at GrindTec

**With visitors up nearly 20 per cent last time around, the GrindTec 2008 pre-show buzz is already starting to build. Steed Webzell previews the exhibition**

**G** grindTec 2006 surpassed even the highest expectations with visitors up 19 per cent (9,336), excellent results for the 300 companies represented and plenty of praise from the media and association representatives. Prospects also look good for the biennial show to be held at the Augsburg Trade Fair Grounds in Germany on 12-15 March 2008.

Around 35 per cent of the show's visitors do not attend any other trade fair in the manufacturing sector, so it is not surprising that the world's major grinding machine manufacturers will be present. Among Hardinge Group companies Kellenberger, Tripet, Tschudin and Hauser, focus will be on the latter's new S35-400 multi-axis jig-grinding machine which offers complex double curvature profiles and very high standards of surface finish.

The Korber Schleifring Group will be well represented in the component grinding section by Blohm, Magerle, Mikrosa, Schaudt, Studer and Jung. Studer will present its S31 universal cylindrical grinding machine designed for external and internal grinding of medium-sized workpieces in a single set-up, while Jung will introduce its new Vario machine. A flexible concept with cross saddle design, its table is equipped with a special self-centring vee combined with a dual level slideway system.

Other notable international grinding names will include Okamoto (600 Centre), Peter Wolters, Voumard (Peter Wolters) and Tacchella (Machine Tool Sales). The latter will introduce the new Tacchella Proflex C1 that is able to use various combinations of external wheels (from two to four) in sequence for the required machining.

Visitors to Peter Wolters' stand will see the double-wheel Finegrinding-Machine AC 530-F, while Voumard will exhibit its 130 CNC grinding machines which are equipped with hydrostatic guideways and linear drives.

Tool and cutter grinding will be served by global names like ANCA, Schneeberger, Michael Deckel, Rollomatic, Saacke, Vollmer, Wendt and Coborn together with Korber Schleifring Group companies Ewag and Walter.

## MICRO TOOL PRODUCTION

Walter will demonstrate a number of popular models, including a Helitronic Micro – designed for the production of micro tools from 0.1 to 12.7 mm diameter and the regrinding of tools from 2.0 to 12.7 mm diameter – meeting medical and electronics sector needs.

Other Walter stand exhibits will include a Helitronic Vision with wheelchanger, a Helitronic Power Diamond with electrode/wheelchanger and disc loader, and a Helitronic Basic. Helitronic Tool Studio software will also be highlighted.

A grinding machine without wheel technology is of course like a Rottweiler without teeth, fairly ineffective, which is why visits to stands such as Tyrolit, Saint Gobain, Slip Naxos and Rappold Winterthur are essential, while visitors seeking tooling/toolholding solutions can

visit companies such as Kennametal, Guhring, Nikken, Gewefa and Forkardt. Another such company, Ceratizit, will promote its new 'QuickService', which allows customers to order specially configured products in record time.

Products and equipment supporting grinding technology should not be overlooked either, whether it is coolant (Blaser, Oelheld, Shell), automation (Fanuc Robotics) or metrology (Renishaw, Mitutoyo, Mahr, Zoller, Tesa).

Designed for the harsh environment found in grinding machines, Renishaw's MP250 ultra compact touch probe gives sub-micron 3D performance on applications such as gear teeth or cutting tools. Tesa meanwhile will present its new Visio PC-based complex part non-contact measuring system (see above).

Shell Metalworking will be promoting a new version of its water miscible micro emulsion Shell Adrana D 208.01 which offers improved bio-stability and is suitable for producing parts such as bearing rings. □

