

# Erickson Machine Tools Demonstrates New Manufacturing Technology

Erickson Machine Tools Inc., celebrating its 50th Anniversary, recently held an Open House. The company's

large showroom in Story City, IA was used to demonstrate new machining centers, turning centers, saws, a water-jet cutting machine and cutting tools and accessories for manufacturers and job shops in the Iowa and Nebraska regions.

The Milltronics ML 16 Toolroom Lathe can be used as a manual machine for one-off projects or as a CNC machine. The control has a 'teach' feature that will remember what was done in the manual mode to be repeated in CNC mode. The ML 16 was shown with a Dorian tool post option but can be purchased with a turret. It has a 17.5-inch swing and a 40" bed. The ma-

chine can be ordered with up to 120-inch bed. The box ways provide stability. An oversized cross slide allows for the turret to be mounted on the front or the back. A hydraulic tailstock is optional.

The Milltronics VM30IL vertical machining center features an inline, direct-drive spindle with 70 mm spindle bearings for strength. The spindle is designed to grip the toolholder with optimum gripping power and is BIG Kaiser Plus certified. The work envelope is 60" x 30" x 24" (x, y, z). The control is Milltronics' new 8200 control.

Milltronics' SL 12 Slant Bed Lathe featured a 12" chuck and is designed to be a production lathe with a 25-2500 RPM spindle speed, a parts catcher and a chip conveyor. The tool turret comes standard with eight tools and has the option for live tooling.

Hwacheon demonstrated two machines. The Hwacheon T2-2TYSMC Multi-Axis Turning Center is designed with two spindles and two turrets for a

variety of multi-tasking machining options. The machine can cut two different parts at once, two of the same parts at once or turn one side of a part and hand it off to the second spindle to machine the back side of the part. Each turret has its own motor rather than smaller servo motors. This produces up to 52 ft. lbs. of torque for heavy-duty cutting. Other specifications are: 8" chuck, 17.7" swing, turning diameter up to 14.9" and bar capacity of 2.5". The two spindles each have a 3" bore. "I look at this machine as being a 'ripped' machine with lots of power underneath," said Mark Leeser, National Sales Manager, Hwacheon.

The second Hwacheon machine was the Vesta 1050B 6K vertical machining center. This machine comes with an adaptive control that adapts to changes while cutting. Artificial intelligence built into the control can look ahead for high speed machining, can make adjustments when the material



(L-R) Kenneth Erickson, Jr. CEO and Kurt Erickson, President, Erickson Machine Tools Inc. Picture in the center is Kenneth Erickson, Sr. who started the company in 1960 and passed away in 1999.



Ben Whittington, Ameritech Machine Tools, representing LK Machinery. The TT-510P VMC features a pallet exchanger.



Dan Peck, CNC Service Technician, Erickson Machine Tools Inc.



Don Haselton, President, 600 Group Inc., (Clousing Industrial) shows the Clousing Engine Lathe.



Trex Lusk, President, Trex Lusk Sales, Manufacturers' Rep for Ercolina



Mark Leeser, National Sales Manager, Hwacheon Machinery America shows the T2-2TYSMC multi-tasking turning center



Bob Dudzienski, Regional Sales Manager, Newall Electronics, Inc. shows a Newall DRO being used on a Clousing Mill

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suddenly becomes harder, can detect broken tools and other productivity enhancing software features.

The LK Machinery vertical machining center featured at the open house was the TT-510P with a pallet exchanger, 30 taper spindle, 12,000 RPM spindle and 22" x 16" travel. LK Machinery also manufactures horizontal machining centers.

The Clausing Engine Lathe was a 15" x 50" manual machine with geared head. "This machine is sold everywhere in the world and that is how the phrase 'the world turns on a Colch-

ester' was coined," said Don Haselton, President of the 600 Group Inc., a Clausing and Colchester company. The lathe can be ordered for turning very long parts.

The Omax 55100 Precision Waterjet machine featured X, Y travels of 100" x 55" with a 30 HP variable speed, direct drive pump. The cutting speed is 180 IPM. Options or accessories can be added including a Maxjet 5 waterjet cutting nozzle, Tilt-a-Jet and a terrain follower.

Ercolina demonstrated a bench top tube bender. A Hyd-Mech automatic

pivot style band saw Model S-020A featured a blade speed of 75-35 SFM. Newall DROs and linear feedback encoders were shown in a rugged, under water environment. Other machines, cutting tools and accessories were shown.

Erickson Machine Tools was founded 50 years ago by Ken Erickson, Sr. Since that time the company has seen many changes in machine tools from manual machines to paper tape and then to CNC controls. Ken's son, Kenneth, Jr. started in sales with the company after his university years in

1965 and now serves as CEO. Kurt Erickson, Ken Jr.'s son, works in the company and is now President.

The central Iowa distributor draws customers from Iowa and Nebraska and surrounding states for some lines. The industries served by Erickson Machine Tools are agriculture, wind energy, aerospace, construction machinery and contract machining job shops that serve all types of industries. "We are experiencing an upturn in business," said Kurt. "Some people do not understand that manufacturing is so vital in this country. In the state of Iowa manufacturing has a greater GDP than agriculture."

"Erickson Machine Tools Inc. is focused on supplying manufacturing solutions rather than just selling machines," said Ken Erickson. "We provide training on the use of machines, turnkey for customers that need it, automation solutions including ABB robots, service and process analysis."

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(L-R) Nancy Lee, Sr. Regional Sales Manager; Chan Srey, Applications Specialist, Omax Corp. demonstrate the speed and precision of the 55100 Precision Waterjet.



(L-R) Kurt Erickson, President, Erickson Machine Tools Inc; John Fabel, Sales Manager, Milltronics CNC Machines show the Milltronics ML 16 with manual and CNC modes.

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