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For further information please contact Dave Lindsey
at Laser Process Limited on 01543 495 000
or email: sales@laserprocess.co.uk.



www.laserprocess.co.uk



Barrett Steel invests further in flatbed laser cutting systems

Responding to changing customer needs to combine steel stockholding and processing, Barrett Steel has made further investment in state of the art flatbed laser cutting equipment by installing a Bystronics Bystar 4025 at the Group's Woodberry Chillcott facility in Bristol. The £500k total investment will allow the company to provide better cutting tolerances on mild steel, stainless steel, aluminium, titanium and yellow materials, while the large bed size will lead to time and cost savings for customers.



The enhanced facilities benefit customers in the automotive, aerospace, construction, trailers, earth-moving equipment and general engineering

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Confederation of British Metalforming Associated Bodies:



Employer engagement 'central' to the development of new Engineering Academy



Last year, funding was secured to build a new £15.2m centre for learning in Birmingham. The Aston University Engineering Academy will be the first new build, major university-led University Technical College (UTC) in the country and it is being created in partnership with Birmingham City Council. When completed, it will cater for 600 pupils aged between 14 and 19 years old and will play a crucial role in delivering knowledge and skills through the specialisms of engineering and science.

Academy students will specialise in engineering and science alongside core subjects in English, maths, languages and business. The specialist education offered by the Academy will ensure that the UK has the skilled employees available for vital future projects such as building wind farms, developing carbon-efficient housing and constructing high speed rail links. Young people with a good technical education will be essential for ensuring that the UK can compete and lead the world in these new technologies.

The Aston University Engineering Academy is keen to develop strong links with local and national industry to ensure its curriculum is employer led, with real life challenges as part of the curriculum. When students go on work experience placements, the experience will link directly to classroom work. Lee Kilgour, Principal Designate of the new Academy, is actively looking for employers to work with as formal sponsors or informal partners, as their input is central to the development of the Academy. Lee said, "The Academy's employer engagement is not just about apprenticeships, it will permeate all aspects of the curriculum".

Employers are encouraged to have early input into the development of the curriculum, to ensure that students' learning in Engineering and Science matches the needs of the local and national economy and also reflects the future needs of the particular sector in which they work. Aston University Engineering Academy opens to its first students in September 2012, and employers can continue to engage with the Academy through providing high quality work placements, mentoring students and allowing the Academy to use their specialist facilities to inform and inspire students to pursue a career in their industry. Large, medium and small private sector companies as well as large public sector organisations will all have a valuable role to play.

To find out more about how your company can get involved with Aston University Engineering Academy Principal Designate, Lee Kilgour, is hosting a Breakfast Event for Businesses on Tuesday 28th June.

For further information about the event please visit www1.aston.ac.uk/business/links-to-business/aston-engineering-academy-business-breakfast/ or to book a place email c.l.hopkins@aston.ac.uk



Trucks hit high gear in April

A preliminary reading of heavy-duty Class 8 commercial vehicle net orders for North American markets climbed to 38,200 units in April, according to ACT Research Co. (ACT), the Indiana-based market research company that specializes in new and used commercial vehicle data for the North American and Chinese markets.

April's numbers were up 239% from April of 2010 and represent the largest monthly order intake since March 2006. Preliminary net order numbers are subject to revision and are typically accurate to within 5% plus or minus, ACT said.

"Every cycle has one or two of those months when the breadth of participation rises and a confluence of events leads to these types of results," said Kenny Vieth, president and senior analyst. "April happened to be that month this cycle.

"The list of positive drivers leading to the April order spike is long: Healthy freight, increasing trucker profits, pent-up replacement demand, rising used equipment prices, improving credit worthiness, rising prices for new vehicles, and lead times for new equipment that have pushed out to the end of the year. If that was not enough, there is the accelerated depreciation schedule for 2011 to consider. The challenge now is for the industry to translate all of this demand into trucks."

Source: Diesel Progress

Drivetrain products



Dana Holding Corp. has launched a new line of drivetrain components for the commercial vehicle, off-highway and automotive aftermarkets. The new SVL products, which include universal joints for the light and commercial vehicle markets, ring and pinion gear sets for heavy-duty applications and light-duty axle components, are designed specifically for older (post-warranty) vehicles with lower usage cycles.



"The drivetrain aftermarket demands a quality product option for applications that do not require genuine original-equipment performance specifications," said Bill Gryzenia, vice president and general manager of Dana's Aftermarket Group. "The SVL product line fulfills the market's need for durable performance and is fully validated by Dana's experienced engineering team."

The new SVL product line will initially launch in North America. Additional components and regional availability will be determined based on market demand, the company said.

Source: Diesel Progress

VW, MAN, Scania truck alliance on the move again?



Volkswagen AG said it has increased its voting stake in truck maker MAN SE to more than 30%, a move which under German law triggers a mandatory takeover offer for the whole company, according to various European press reports.



"This low-ball offer serves to start the takeover process but still have maximum flexibility," MM Warburg analyst Marc-Rene Tonn was quoted in a variety of reports. The offer thus values the whole of MAN at €13.76 billion (\$19.79 billion). The offer will apparently be made by way of a cash offer, following its approval by the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority, and is expected to be published at the end of May.

This is the latest move in a long running courtship with the goal being the eventual marriage of MAN, Volkswagen and Scania in global commercial vehicle alliance. Analysts said that Volkswagen said raising its stake in MAN marked "one step further towards an integrated commercial vehicle group." Volkswagen holds more than 45% of Scania, and MAN more than 13%.

Volkswagen supervisory board chief Ferdinand Piech has said over the last year that he wants MAN and Scania, which both count VW as their biggest shareholder, to co-operate. Last November, MAN said it was seeking closer co-operation with Scania, which spoke of a possible combination between the two companies but suggested that their brands would remain separate.

Source: Diesel Progress

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fields, as well as those requiring decorative components for door plates, stairwells, kickplates, lift control panel plates and kitchen fitments.

Ben Cliss, Commercial Manager at Woodberry Chillcott, explains: "The Bystar 4025 has a large bed size – 4m x 2½m - which results in higher productivity. We can therefore cut larger components with better nesting and produce more parts in less time. This reduction in cutting times means we can pass labour cost savings on to our customers.

"The excellent cutting tolerances of the Bystar 4025 also improve the production and re-production of complex engineering parts – vital for designers and manufacturers of high performance machinery.

"As part of the investment in new equipment we have also brought in a new crane to reduce the potential for damage to the steel when moving it around."

Laser cutting offers a number of key benefits for the customer as complex cutting procedures, including angles and V-shapes, can be carried out in a single pass. Laser cutting polished steel for decorative purposes also ensures a scratch-free finish.

Sample cutting tolerances are +/- 0.25mm on thicknesses of 1-20mm for mild and stainless steel and 1-12mm for aluminium.

As well as offering flatbed laser cutting facilities, Woodberry Chillcott provides grinding and folding services.

More information is available from
Chris Lamb at Barrett Steel, tel: +44 (0)1274 682281,
email: chris.lamb@barrettsteel.com, www.barrettsteel.com

or from Ben Cliss at Woodberry Chillcott, tel: +44 (0)117 316 5405,
email: benjamin.cliss@woodberrychillcott.co.uk

New Fastener Standards

BSI has circulated the following amended fastener standards to members of the fastener standards committee during April/May. These documents are available for download from bsigroup.com.



- BS EN ISO 2702: 2011 Heat treated steel tapping screws – Mechanical properties**
This is a technical revision of the 1995 standard of the same title, which has been withdrawn. The standard specifies the properties of tapping screws according to ISO 1478. The main modifications are (a) the scope is extended to ST9,5 (b) the maximum core hardness is reduced from 390HV to 370HV (c) reference to ISO 898-7 concerning torque measuring device is added.
- BS EN ISO 4017: 2011 Hexagon head screws – Product grades A and B**
This is a minor revision of the 2001 standard of the same title, which has been withdrawn. The standard specifies the characteristics of hexagon head screws of product grade A with thread diameters from M1,6 to M24, and product grade B with thread diameters over M24. This product is similar to that covered by ISO 4016 except for threading is up to the head.
- BS EN ISO 4018: 2011 Hexagon head screws – Product grade C**
A minor revision of the 2001 standard of the same title, which has been withdrawn. The standard specifies the characteristics of hexagon head screws of product grade C with thread diameters from M5 to M64. This product is similar to that covered by ISO 4016 except for threading is up to the head.

EIFI Congress

On 27th May, 50 delegates attended the annual Congress of the European Industrial Fastener Institute in Krakow, Poland. Most of the delegates were from the six national associations, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Poland and the UK, but there were also representatives from Belgium and Sweden.



The morning meetings were for EIFI members only, and the afternoon included guests, two of whom made presentations. Seven of the slide presentations are now available to CBM members. These are:

- 1. Automotive group:** A review of the world market trends and forecasts of demand over the next few years, with some inferences for the automotive fastener industry (*by P. Pozzi*).
- 2. Anti-dumping:** The status of the various EIFI actions and the future action plan (*by G. Donati*).
- 3. Guest presentation:** European Fastener Distributors Association (*by Dr Seidl, Vice President of EFDA*).
- 4. Guest presentation:** Analysis of the current economic situation in Europe (*by Dr R. Patel, University of Rzeszow*).
- 5. General fasteners group:** Work done over the last year (*by R. Ceravalls*).
- 6. Construction market:** A review of the factors affecting the European construction industry and a forecast of expectations (*by R. Ceravalls*).
- 7. EIFI Congress survey of market expectations for the next year.**

Contact john.newnham@britishmetalforming.com
if you would like to receive any of these files.

- BS EN ISO 8676: 2011 Hexagon head screws with metric fine pitch thread – Product grades A and B**
This is a minor revision of the 2001 standard of the same title. The standard specifies the characteristics of the defined screws with nominal thread diameters from 8mm to 64mm for product grade A and diameters over 24mm for product grade B.
- BS EN ISO 10510: 2011 Tapping screw and washer assemblies with plain washers**
A minor revision of the 2000 standard of the same title, the standard specifies the requirements of tapping screws and plain washer assemblies of thread sizes from ST2,2 to ST9,5 inclusive.
- BS EN ISO 14583: 2011 Hexalobular socket pan head screws**
Again a minor revision of the 2001 standard of the same title, which incorporates a Technical Corrigendum from 2004. The standard specifies the characteristics of the defined screws of product grade A and with thread sizes from M2 to M10 inclusive.



International
Organization for
Standardization

Rail Industry Event: Ambitions for future growth

5TH JULY, DONCASTER

This event will inform delegates how to access business opportunities within the growing rail market both here in the UK and overseas. It will appeal to organisations with a current presence in rail and to those considering entering this market.

Amongst the speakers will be; The Rail Industry Association, Eversholt Rail Group, Network Rail, On Track, Mechan, Freightliner and the Railway Safety & Standards Board (RSSB).

With continued investment into rail transportation in the UK and the decisions upon high speed rail, there is a strong potential for the supply chain in this sector. One million more trains run every year compared to just five years ago with predictions that over the next 30 years passenger demand for rail will more than double and freight demand increase by 140%. The total projected cost with the development of high-speed rail networks in the UK is an estimated £30bn and presents significant opportunities for UK manufacturing.



Agenda

08:00 - 09:00	Registration, Networking and Exhibition
09:00 - 09:05	Introduction from National Metals Technology Centre
09:05 - 09:30	Rail Industry Association
09:30 - 09:55	Eversholt Rail Group
09:55 - 10:20	On Trak
10:20 - 10:50	Break
10:50 - 11:15	Mechan
11:15 - 11:40	Network Rail
11:40 - 12:05	Railway Safety and Standards Board (RSSB)
12:05 - 12:30	Freightliner Group
12:30 - 14:00	Close followed by networking lunch and exhibition

To book a place please contact Jenny Barratt-Jones at NAMTEC on 1709 722477 or email: jenny.barratt-jones@namtec.co.uk



CBM events diary

- CBM H, S & E Group Meeting 5 July**
 The CBM H,S,&E Group meet quarterly to discuss relevant H&S issues. The recent Accident Reduction in Metalforming Sector (ARMS) initiative has embarked on a strategy to reduce the accidents in the sector and subsequently reduce insurance premia.
- 18th International Forgemasters Meeting 12 - 15 September**
 The 18th International Forgemasters Meeting (IFM) to be held in Pittsburgh, USA.
- CBM Executive Board Meeting 13 September**
 The CBM Executive Board meets quarterly to review CBM's affairs.
- BLECH Nordic 2011 4 - 7 October**
 Exhibition for sheet metal working, Sweden.
- MACH 2012 16 - 20 April**
 NEC Birmingham.
- Subcon 2012 12-14 June**
 NEC Birmingham.
- Free CBM Marketing Club event: Customer Relationship Management (CRM) 14 July**
 Our CRM experts will be on hand to show you how you can manage your customer interactions in the Cloud. No software, no installs, no headaches - just focus on the things that matter, like growing your business.

All events are held at the CBM Headquarters, National Metalforming Centre, West Bromwich B70 6PY unless otherwise stated.

For further information or to book a place please visit: www.britishmetalforming.com

London's new Low Emission Zone – changes for 3rd January 2012



From 3rd January 2012 there will be tighter emission standards and more vehicles included.

Will your business be affected?

There will be a tightening of emissions standards for diesel vehicles already affected by the LEZ. Larger vans, minibuses, and other specialist diesel vehicles will now be affected. The government have made all information available on www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon including a vehicle registration plate checking facility.

This legislation includes most roads inside the M25 motorway - 24 hours a day every day – including the bottom sections of the M1 and M4 motorways. Although cars and motorcycles are excluded many commercial vehicles will be affected. If they do not meet strict emission levels the vehicle owners will be required to pay a daily charge of £100 or £200 depending on type and weight.

Use the website registration check to find out how this will affect your transport.