



IMTEX 2020: SHOWCASING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

ORGANISER AND PARTICIPANTS ARE CERTAIN FOR A FRUITFUL EVENT.

BY SWATI DESHPANDE

IMTEX FORMING, ONE OF THE LEADING TRADE fairs for the forming technologies is kicking on January 23, 2020 at Bengaluru. The exhibition that is organised by Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA) has been a leader in showcasing Indian prowess in the metal forming sector. Speaking about highlights of this edition, **V Anbu, Director General & CEO, IMTMA** says, "IMTMA will be organising the forthcoming IMTEX FORMING 2020 & Tooltech 2020 exhibition from January 23-28, 2020 at Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bengaluru. Over 30,000 sq mtr exhi-

bition space will be occupied by exhibitors from 22 countries showcasing their products and technologies 'live' at BIEC."

Highlighting on the technologies at forefront, he mentions, "Focus will be on metal forming machines, processes, forming tools and components. The concurrent show, Tooltech 2020 will cover tools for metalworking machine tools, fixtures, machine tool accessories, die and moulds, metrology and CAD/CAM. For the first time, IMTEX FORMING 2020 will also have special focus on Additive Manufacturing and Industry 4.0."

1. Glimpses of the previous edition of IMTEX Forming

"The exhibition will display metal forming machines, processes, products and trends covering presses, sheet metal working, die casting, forging, casting & foundry, welding and joining, wire forming and drawing, trends in metal forming processes and products, robotics and automation, die and mould, and hydraulic and pneumatic systems and elements, and especially high-speed laser machines for all applications. Exhibition is renowned for showcasing technologies from India as well as overseas countries. IMTEX FORMING 2020 will showcase Additive Manufacturing products and solutions, software and hardware for Industry 4.0," he adds.

Talking about the display, participating company **Schuler India's managing director, Nitin Kulkarni** says, "Schuler's affiliate Yadon is a success story also in India. In the last two years, more than 80 presses from the Chinese manufacturer have been sold in the country. About half of them with a press force ranging from 60 to 1,000 metric tons have already been installed at various metal forming companies. The complete product portfolio will be on exhibit at IMTEX Forming 2020."

While speaking on Grind Master Machines's display at the trade fair, **Mohini Kelkar, director (marketing & business development)** of the company says, "This year, we are displaying a Precision Deburring Machine that is made by Grind Master for flat surfaces and a grinding, slag removing and edge rounding machine for plasma, laser cut, punched and fine blanked parts from one of our partners, Timesavers Netherlands."

SMART TECHNOLOGIES

As Anbu mentioned, Industry 4.0 is one of the focus areas. Also, it's a noteworthy trend in the industry. How ready is the industry for it? Reacting to this question, Kulkarni says, "Schuler's answer to Industry 4.0 and the Industrial Internet of Things is the Smart Press Shop. In the intelligent and fully networked press shop of the future, it will be possible to accurately predict potential downtime with the aid of sophisticated sensors and actuators, along with the data they collect, and to avert this downtime well in advance. This helps to ensure our customers' pro-

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SHOW

- 500+ exhibitors
- Exhibitors from 22+ countries
- 500+ live demos
- Focus on additive manufacturing and Industry 4.0
- Over 33,000 square metres of exhibition space
- International Seminar on Forming Technology
- i2 Academia Pavilion (an event for academia and industry to interact and explore possibilities for tie-ups)
- Connect (an awareness programme on machine tool industry)
- Reverse International Buyer-Seller Meet (an interaction platform for machine tool manufacturers and international buyers)
- 40,000 + business visitor footfall expected



"Schuler's answer to Industry 4.0 is the Smart Press Shop."
— Nitin Kulkarni



"Delegation from various sectors will be visiting the show."
— V Anbu

2. Industry 4.0 is one of the special focus areas of the trade fair.

ductivity and increase the quality of the parts they produce, while also reducing energy requirements. As a result, the Smart Press Shop delivers improved reliability and increased cost-effectiveness for the field of forming technology."

Commenting on the technologies in the deburring space, Kelkar says, "Grind Master has expertise in various deburring processes, tools and commensurate machines. Due to multiple variables in metal cutting, laser/plasma cutting & punching and blanking processes, the amount and nature of burr on the parts varies a lot. Deburring process which was neglected up till now is gaining more and more importance when it comes to modern automotive and aerospace components."

"Nowadays the parts from the aerospace, automotive, metal, defense industries require better kind of deburring and finishing. Apart from only machines, the exact process know-how is extremely

important in these cases because of different kind of materials and finishes required. Also, there is demand for flow formed parts from the defense and aerospace sector in order to reduce the weight of the component. Also, automotive parts like brake drums, alloy wheel rims, etc. are adopting flow forming technology. We work with MJC of USA for the Flow Forming Technology," she continued.

VISITORS

Speaking about the company's expectations from the trade fair, Kelkar says, "Apart from the automotive sector, we expect more number of visitors from metal, defense and aerospace (Both Public and Private) sectors. Due to Make in India initiative by our Government, The Machine tool companies from India have better opportunities in these sectors."

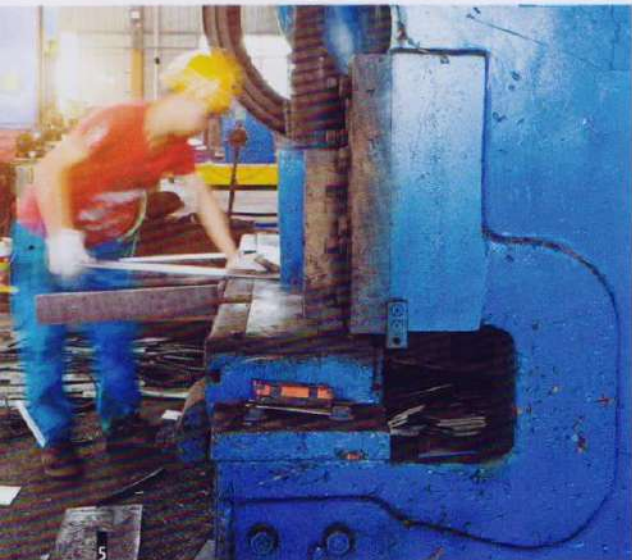
Anbu is also expecting trade delegations from leading industries. He says, "Delegation



3. 32 Series RB machine that Grind Master plans to display at IMTEX

4. Schuler India's machine that will be showcased at the trade fair





from various sectors such as automotive (including automotive component and automobile manufacturing), aerospace, defence, railways, power, electronics, white and brown goods manufacturers and construction, will be visiting the show."

MARKET SCENARIO

Speaking about the business sentiment in the market, Anbu says, "The automobile and auto component manufacturers are currently experiencing transformation and slowdown and so is machine tool industry as it is largely dependent on these sectors for its growth. Automobile industry is expecting demand and positivity as they are releasing BS-VI compliant vehicles during the last quarter of FY2019-20. The slowdown is expected to be a temporary phenomenon and signs of turnaround with some car manufacturers reporting good bookings is creating positive vibes."

"On this backdrop, industries are introspecting ways to override the slowdown as well as expand their sectoral spread and reach. They are also exploring avenues for exporting their products, enhancing their technological capabilities through R&D and innovation, process and product improvement and aiming for solution based approach for marketing. Industries are also undergoing modernisation, digitalising their infrastructure and upskilling their workforce in phases," he adds.

Highlighting on how the year 2019 was, Kulkarni mentions, "Yadon has signed the largest contract with a foreign country in India: An Indian company bought presses with a total value of almost five million euros. Thanks to the support of Schuler India and Yadon sales managers, who are Indian nationals, we were able to get this order with a very important and well known tier-1 supplier to the Indian automotive industry."

Even Grind Master's business grew. Speaking about it, Kelkar says, "Though the market in 2019 was not doing good, Grind Mater is full of orders for metal finishing machines from metal, automotive, cookware and aerospace sectors. We look forward to focus more and perform better in the metal and aerospace sectors in 2020."

Giving a wider perspective on a concluding note, Anbu says, "After persistent efforts, India currently occupies 9th position globally in machine building as per latest Gardner's 'World Machine Tool Survey'. To move one notch up the goal, which is challenging, industry is focussing on expanding into non-auto customer sectors, substituting imports by developing globally competitive products, expanding export market, investing in R&D and Innovation, and digitalisation and re-skilling their workforce. Companies need to look forward for joint ventures and collaboration with reputed global industries, build brand image and enhance global presence for growth, reach and sustenance." ■



"Grind Mater is full of orders for metal finishing machines." - Mohini Kelkar

5 & 6. At IMTEX focus will be on metal forming machines, processes, forming tools and components.

7. The automotive industry is experiencing transformation and slowdown