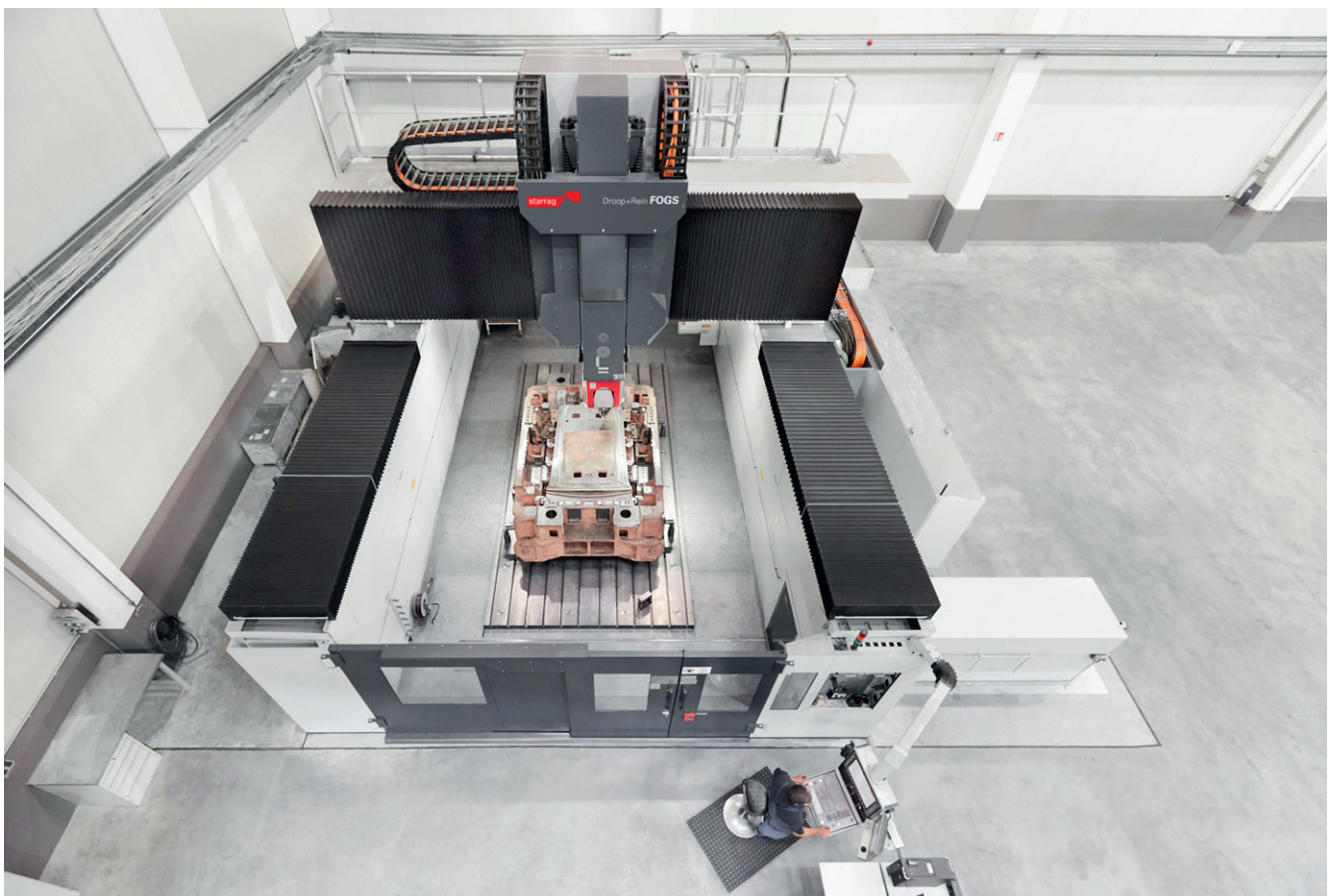


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The second machine cuts (even) better

FOGS 40 68 C in toolmaking



Effective smoothing: The Droop+Rein FOGS 40 68 C is a five-axis machine tool designed for smoothing.

Gütersloh / Germany

Schmedthenke Werkzeugbau ordered a second Droop+Rein milling machine with overhead gantry (Droop+Rein FOGS) from Starrag Technology GmbH, which began operation at the same time as the other FOG machine shut down for retrofitting.



Good feeling: Schmedthenke Operational Manager Detlef Fölling checks the machining work of the new Droop+Rein FOGS 40 68 C with great satisfaction.

In Gütersloh, the success of a second-hand Droop+Rein FOG 2500 has paid off. In 2017, the machine underwent another retrofit, in which the golden oldie (built in 1994) was given new drive technology and a new control system, meaning it can now machine parts from high-alloy castings. According to Jörg and Carsten Schmedthenke, Managing Directors of SWB Schmedthenke Werkzeugbau GmbH in Gütersloh, the machine has smoothed “sensationally” since the retrofits.

In 2016 – thanks to the enormous success of the old Droop+Rein machine – they ordered a second one: The Droop+Rein FOGS 40 68 C is also a five-axis machine tool designed for smoothing (X axis: 6,800 mm; Y axis: 4,000 mm, Z axis: 1,500 mm, C axis: $\pm 200^\circ$, B axis: $\pm 115^\circ$; pallet: 6,000 mm x 3,000 mm, changer for 51 tools, fork head with two motor spindles, 10,000 rpm or 20,000 rpm) with a Heidenhain control system that is tried and tested in toolmaking (iTNC 530 HSCI).

“With the second machine, we’re smoothing all of the components for the automotive sector”, says Managing Director Jörg Schmedthenke. *“The investment in a second FOGS machine also provides more security in the event that one machine fails.”* Indeed, the new Droop+Rein FOGS took over the work of the first machine when it underwent 22 weeks of planned downtime for retrofitting.

“It was very important for us to have a supplier on whom we could rely completely in terms of meeting deadlines and commitments”, says the Managing Director. *“We agreed on a nine-month delivery time, and Starrag met this 100 %.”* Equally important to the East Westphalia-based company was a very high level of availability, which was at over 95 % shortly after commissioning. This reliability was not only thanks to the FOG series but also, according to Schmedthenke, down to the Starrag staff, who *“were extremely knowledgeable and paid close attention to detail, down to the last 100th of a millimetre”* during assembly.

In line with the Starrag claim *“Engineering precisely what you value”,* Schmedthenke thus received a machine with all the features they wanted exactly when they needed it. This meant it went into reliable operation four weeks after setup, precisely when the Droop+Rein FOG 2500 was due to be shut down. The East Westphalia-based company is now using the second machine purely for smoothing. *“With an additional drive, we could also use it for roughing”,* emphasises the qualified engineer. *“But because of our two-machine strategy, we’ve decided to employ a machine just for smoothing. The precision needed in toolmaking can only be achieved by roughing on one machine and smoothing on another.”*

**Profile: SWB Schmedthenke
Werkzeugbau**

In 1993, Horst Schmedthenke and his son Jörg took over a toolmaking plant in Gütersloh with 13 employees.

Two years later, younger son Carsten Schmedthenke also joined the family business. Since then, the brothers have jointly become sole managing partners of the business. Today it is a prosperous company with a very respectable machine park that includes two tool presses and can manufacture and process components weighing up to 100 tonnes. Business is going well, as is demonstrated by the number of employees: over the years this has increased to 87.

Toolmaking plays an important role in this, including the production of very large tools for the construction of vehicle chassis. The portfolio ranges from the manufacture of individual parts or layers up to complete tools and tool kits, including the engineering, design, manufacture and incorporation in mass production.

<http://s-w-b.de>

**Company profile Starrag
Engineering precisely
what you value**

Starrag Group is a global technology leader in manufacturing high-precision machine tools for milling, turning, boring and grinding workpieces of metallic, composite and ceramic materials. Principle customers are internationally active companies in the Aerospace, Energy, Transportation and Industrial sectors. In addition to its portfolio of machine tools, Starrag Group provides integrated technology and maintenance services that significantly enhance customer productivity.

The products are marketed under the brand Starrag and include the product ranges Berthiez, Bumotec, Dörries, Droop+Rein, Ecospeed, Heckert, Scharmann, SIP, Starrag and TTL. Headquartered in Rorschach/Switzerland, the Starrag Group operates manufacturing plants in Switzerland, Germany, France, the UK and India and has established a network of sales and services subsidiaries in the most important customer countries.

Starrag Group Holding AG is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange.

For further information

Starrag
Michael Schedler
Head of Marketing
T +49 2166 454 0
F +49 2166 454 300
info@starrag.com
www.starrag.com