

Winning pair

Solutions based on know-how are frequently deployed to optimise production.

One example will be explained by Mr. Werner Strobel of Walter AG.



A pertinent analysis

Let us see how a detailed analysis, associated with a finely adapted product range, can lead to success. Werner Strobel is in the production shop in front of the lathe. He is providing an interested party with a detailed demonstration of how to increase productivity by using a specific tool or throwaway insert. A test is performed on a production part and the outcome is completely satisfactory.

This is no miracle, because Werner Strobel, a turning consultant at Walter AG in Tübingen, knows his job backwards. He has been work-

ing in the field of turning and precision turning for 26 years.

Major savings potential

The basic idea is quite simple: save production time by rationalisation. "When executing small series runs, a tool change every five or ten minutes makes all the difference. What is more, profitability is also much improved".

A complete process

Before starting any project, it is important to analyse the actual situation with the client. What types of parts need to be machined? What are the cycle times? What is the extent of disturbance caused by swarf...? Provided this analysis is correct, it is actually quite often possible to optimise the situation and develop a specific solution with the client. "Basically, it is useful to question everything again after analysing the actual situation. This can sometimes result in adopting completely new solutions," the precision turning consultant explained.

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An assortment of tools tailor-made to the ultimate size

The turning consultant is a specialist who works very closely with the company's field services. For those clients currently being looked after by Walter field ser-

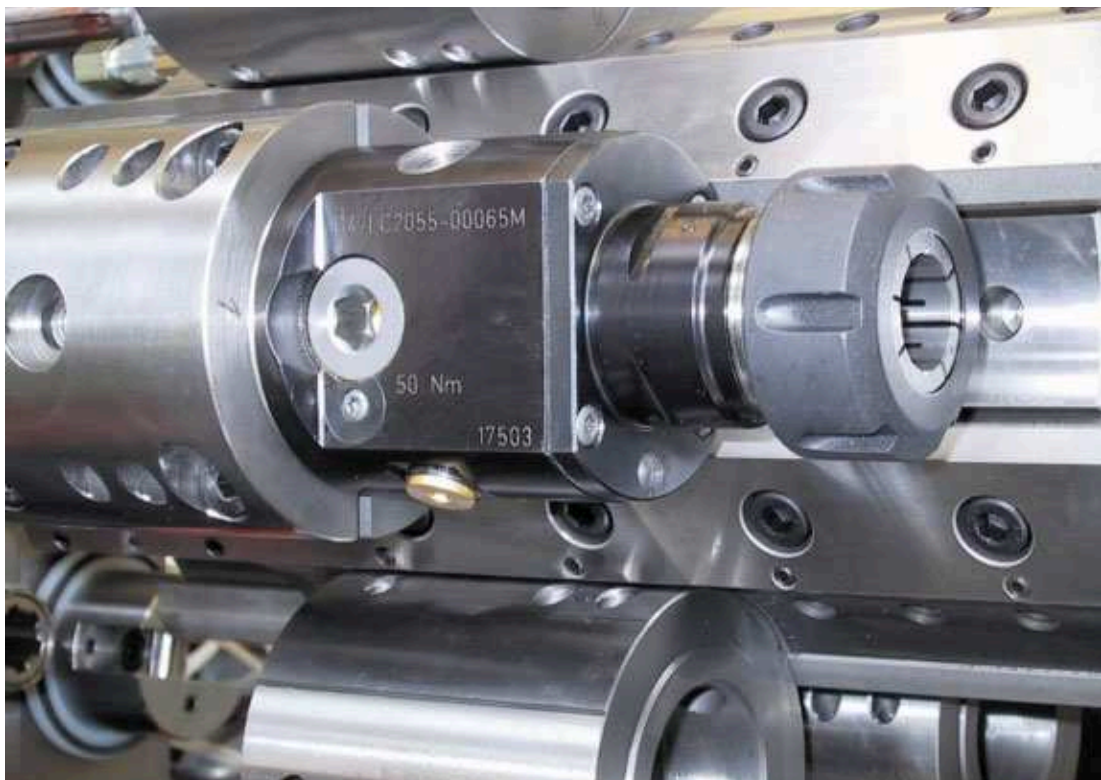
vices, the need for optimisation and/or consultancy is recorded, for example a client specialising in small part runs and one-offs.

With regard to the small series runs, one is generally faced with highly complex parts that generate a lot of swarf and demand considerable precision – hence, small quantities, coupled with complex machining and relatively long set-up times.

A recent example

Having taken account of all manufacturing conditions, Werner Strobel conducted a feasibility study and suggested re-fitting the client's lathes with the Novex Capto rapid tool change system. Clear financial advantages over the VDI clamping system previously used were identified.

In order to limit carefully the number of tools and keep the investment to an acceptable level, Mr. Strobel produced an assortment of tools specifically adapted to the customer's requirements, namely the Capto tooling, its clamping systems and adapters. Although more expensive to purchase than the same tools for the VDI clamping systems, the Novex Capto tools are the better option in the medium term. The fact that they are easier to handle, resulting in a saving of two minutes and one minute per tool during setting up and pre-setting respectively, led to a realistic saving of 352 hours in one year. In this specific example, the conversion work completely paid for itself at the end of the second year. What, in this case, is impossible to indicate in monetary terms is the high degree of precision of re-





producibility of the tools: $\pm 2\mu\text{m}$. Their re-introduction to another station involves no risk. Even following a tool change, the first part will be executed within the prescribed tolerances. With the Novex Capto, you will not only save time, but also money.

Novex Capto – saves time and money!



If you would like further information about the Capto solutions or advice on turning, please do not hesitate to contact

Walter AG.

<http://www.walter-ag.com/>