TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS AND PRODUCT INNOVATIONS ARE THE HALLMARKS OF A VERY SUCCESSFUL 2015 FISCAL YEAR.
DEAR COLLEAGUES,
Dear Business Partners and Friends of GROB,

Once again, 2015 was a highly successful yet challenging year, for our company. With your support we will surpass the one billion euro mark in sales for the second year in a row. However, conditions have changed dramatically, and we face many new challenges and difficulties.

Currently the GROB Group order book shows a promising record with numerous secured orders. Furthermore, the order backlog extends at least twelve months. This is due to both our award-winning and highly competitive products as well as our extensive global investment activities in machinery and buildings. In Mindelheim alone we have invested more than 150 million euros over the last three years. We have likewise lived up to our responsibilities with social projects at all our headquarters in Mindelheim, providing substantial and forward-looking financial support to the technical school, as well as significantly subsidizing the child day care center. Extensive investments in hiring young employees, apprentices and highly qualified workers constitute another important milestone in our company’s future strategy.

All these investments were undertaken to not only ensure our company’s competitiveness but also to successfully meet future challenges. This fine tradition of our family company has continued for almost ninety years. And in order to maintain this tradition, GROB-WERKE will likewise remain one hundred percent family-owned in the future. Only in this way can the company continue to invest in its own strengths, and rely on its own energy and resources to ensure future growth. Please continue to support us with your wholehearted dedication and full commitment in the future to successfully pursue our chosen path. We would like to thank you for the dedication and loyalty you have so clearly demonstrated to the company over the past year.

We wish all of our employees, business partners and friends of the GROB Company Merry Christmas and a successful start to 2016.

The Grob family

In a nutshell, with your great support we have once again managed not only to flow with the market, but also to establish market trends, that allow us to actively and sustainably secure and expand our corporate growth.

Thank you very much for your unerring commitment and dedication and successful cooperation in 2015.

The GROB-WERKE Management Board

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

Once again a highly successful year draws to an end for our company. A year in which with your support we have been able to achieve substantial accomplishments and meet almost all our goals. Indeed, global growth and market conditions have changed dramatically, yet nonetheless, our company has been extraordinarily successful in garnering new customers and work pieces. GROB has continuously increased its market share in new segments. This is a success that perfectly proves that we are pursuing the right path together, a success we can be proud of, and which is based on several pillars.

• Our products and technologies enjoy an undeniable market acceptance, a success that is even more remarkable considering that the entire GROB product spectrum originates from our own development department, including innovative machines such as the new G350 – Generation 2 universal machines, the G80i, the innovative G300 and G320 system machines or the novel telescoping gantry. Additional detailed information can be found in the technical section of this edition.

In order to materialize all these innovations, we have implemented highly dynamic investment programs in our businesses and production facilities in Germany, Brazil, China and the USA. These extensive investments will guarantee the security of our company, and are only possible because the GROB family immediately reinvests all profits into the company.

• For some time we have paved the way for upcoming changes to automotive powertrains. We are therefore currently putting together an additional new development group that will exclusively concentrate on this area.

A further significant component of our tremendous growth in recent years was the concurrent expansion of our global sales and service network. Thus all the way to the end of 2016, we will be represented with sales offices not only in the “Motor City” Detroit, but also in California. This past October, in conjunction with GROB Italia, a new GROB sales and service subsidiary was established in Italy, by the end of the year we shall also open our tenth base, GROB Poland. In addition to the expansion of our sales and service network, we have also put a new matrix sales organization in place, in order to further boost our company’s growth through sales activities.

Just as years before, 2015 will also enter the GROB annals as an extremely successful year, a year characterized by impressive and convincing innovations, high customer approval and continuation of the long-time tradition, by subsidizing the training of its skilled workers of tomorrow. Furthermore, GROB hired 111 new trainees this year, dispersed over all 4 production sites – a new record. In addition to this cornerstone development GROB also formally opened a new high-tech training center in Mindelheim this past summer. It is reasonably considered the most advanced and modern facility of its kind.

In order to materialize all these innovations, we have implemented highly detailed information can be found in the technical section of this edition.

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The GROB-WERKE Management Board

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

Dear colleagues,
it is far more difficult to maintain our

Prospects of the German machine manufacturing industry are very high level of performance than it was to reach our current level of success. This is, for the most part due to unforeseeable prospects of the German machine manufacturing industry itself over recent months.

In order to materialize all these innovations, we have implemented highly detailed information can be found in the technical section of this edition.

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In 2015, we were able to present an entire spectrum of new technological highlights and unprecedented product innovations to our customers. These occurred not only in the system and universal machine business, but also in the area of software technology. GROB development engineers once again delivered on their promise to bring immediate products and increasingly sophisticated technologies to the market.

G800 heavy machining center

The G800 represents the latest development of an entirely new machine concept, offering both universal and system machine customers, the ideal pallet size for large components. The 800 mm pallet lends itself perfectly to machine engine components for trucks, commercial vehicles, construction machinery and tractors. Furthermore, the G800 also constitutes the perfect machine concept for general mechanical engineering, the aviation industry, mold-making and power engineering. The 4-axis modular system, also available with 5 or 6-axis options, allows us to customize the machine to our customers’ individual requirements. Its advantages are obvious: The standard version offers an above-average work area, ideal chip-to-chip times, highest rigidity values, excellent wear drop (also suitable for dry machining) and the ability to utilize extra-long tools of up to 850 mm.

G350 – Generation 2

One could almost say that it became a tradition for GROB to present an additional milestone in the area of universal machines every two years. The 2007 market launch of the G350 was followed by the introduction of the G550 in 2009. At the 2011 EMO, the milling and turning technology of the G550T made its debut. 2013 saw the new G750, and this year the G350 – Generation 2 was introduced. The new G350T basically distinguishes itself by significantly improved dynamics, reduced idle and chip-to-chip times, a new machine design and expanded tool magazine capacity from its predecessor. Due to a repositioning of the tool magazine, we were able to reduce the machine width from 2,450 mm to 2,000 mm, thus achieving a significantly smaller machine footprint. Furthermore, the tool capacity now comprises 60 slots, and can easily be updated to 120 slots with the double disk magazine. Thanks to the newly-developed double disk magazine tool length could also be expanded by 33 percent to 550 mm.

GROB rotary pallet storage system

The newly-developed, rotary pallet storage system (PSK-R) for small and medium-size pallets, which further expands the already extensive universal machine portfolio. Besides a high degree of practicability and functionality by the GROB PSK-R also allows highly flexible installation due to its very compact design. This system is available in three standard sizes for the G550 – Generation 1 universal machine. In its smallest version (PSK-RS) it offers five pallet storage slots on one level. The PSS-R10 provides 10 slots on two levels, and the PSS-R13 model boasts thirteen pallet storage slots on three levels. If one takes the pallet at the setup station into account, the number of available pallets increases to a maximum of fourteen. The system itself is extremely easy to integrate, and can thereby be retrofitted to any existing and already commissioned machine. A rotary movement allows simultaneous loading and unloading, eventually achieving shorter change times.

Latest machine technology

6th G-module development stage

In order to achieve even greater manufacturing system efficiency, not only the universal machine series but also the system machine range (G350/G550, G800) underwent additional development. Their tool magazine capacity was further expanded, idle and chip-to-chip times were fundamentally reduced while machine dynamics were improved. In addition to the new machines, a telescopic gantry for the system business was also developed. It offers a more compact and dynamic design, which ideally fits into the layout of the G-module structure. Parallel to the universal machines, the system machines as well were redesigned and equipped with a more practical-oriented and visually attractive machine paneling.

GROB-NET4Industry

The GROB software technology has also seen two newly-developed modules – GROB4Coach and GROB4Simulate. GROB4Coach is basically a simple, user-oriented software package containing programming, simulation and training software programs with various functionalities. It enables the machining program of the machine to be run on a PC and visualized three-dimensionally. The software in addition offers a programming environment with integrated online help. GROB4Simulate is a powerful simulation system, supporting comprehensive collision monitoring, while also taking into account all components such as tool clamping devices, work pieces and other machine components. Key features are the color-coded display of component damage or remaining material as well as the possibility of exact time determination with respect to machine dynamics.

Additional product innovations

G320 perfect for turbocharger machining

G500TS thermal spraying system

G320 and G350 two-spindle machining centers with integrated pallet changer

Milling and turning technology for the G750T

GROB TECHNOLOGY

Technology highlights and product innovations of 2015
GROB PRODUCTION
Production processes at the highest level

While the primary focus of production investments in recent years has been on the construction or conversion of new halls, attention has also shifted to the detail. In addition to smaller hall expansions and new buildings, manufacturers are now seeking to enhance production processes and to invest in state-of-the-art production systems.

Expansion of the Pre-assembly unit in hall 6
The extension being built between halls 6 and 5 was completed in mid-August this year, thus increasing the production area in hall 6 by over 1000 m². This extension created urgently needed space to assemble the fluid cabinet within the production-based workflow, to integrate the outsourced area for clamping devices into hall 6 and to further improve general procedures. Merging the pre-assembly bays for one or two-spindle machining centers to the center of hall 6 and in close proximity to Machine Assembly allows GROB to both promptly implement technical adjustments, and deploy pre-assembly staff very flexibly. As Peter Haider, Director of Pre-assembly of System Machines states; “Our main objective was to closely interlink pre-assembly with machine assembly in hall 6 to achieve shorter response times. “We have now more than succeeded in doing so through these conversion measures.”

Two million euros for a new heat-treating shop
The initial demolition work behind hall 1 for a new building, which is to house amongst others the new heat-treating shop, got under way last year. This building had been completed on the same site just eight months later. These facilities, which were over thirty years old, were not only technically obsolete, but also fell completely short of any modern and ecological standards. Consequently, a new heat-treating center has been set up which now boasts state of the art technology in every respect. We can now offer processes such as plasma nitriding, vacuum annealing, case hardening, deep-hough- ing and burnishing ourselves by capitalizing on the very latest techniques. The technology today is very different to that of this hall too, has also been brought up to the latest standards. GROB invested more than two million euros into construction and renovation measures. However, it seems safe to say that these costs will be recovered within a very short amount of time through fundamental savings in production through throughput times, considerable reductions in administrative workload and a high level of automation.

Automated production system in large part production
A fourth machining center for the machining of aluminum components was commissioned in hall 5 in the fall of this year in addition to the existing G50D production system. GROB furthermore increased the PROMOT pallet store from 90 spaces to 174 - an expansion that was urgently required. As Roland Blam, Head of the Production Business Unit at GROB, explains, “the system could not be used all weekend due to the enormous productive capacity because all the pallets supplied were processed on Sunday at the latest. With the expansion of the system, we expect to see another marked improvement in its productivity." GROB has also repositioned and successfully capitalized on this trusted system when it comes to machining larger components. The new G75D production system, which is designed with 36 pallet spaces and currently one machining center, was also commissioned in time for our Open House trade fair.

Robot welding in sheet metal production
In December of 2015, a new robotic welding cell will also go into operation in the GROB Sheet Metal Production Department. The system consists of two machining centers with large re versusing units. The robot is subsequently supplied from a linear axis and approaches both stations alternately. This means that the robot has to change the other station while the robot is machining the component. Following construction and startup, the welding robot, which is designed and supplied by KUKA Systems, is intended to primarily manufacture pre-series and reoccurring components. In addition, high-precision functional components will also be welded on the new system. Steffen Seitz, Director of the Sheet Metal Production Department, refers to it as “an ideal addition to our highly automated fleet of equipment in sheet metal production.” The Sheet Metal Production Department expects this to deliver very consistent quality, which will ultimately translate into lower expenditures in the assembly processes.

Whether at the GROB plant in Mindelheim, São Paulo, Bluffton or Dalian – the Mindelheim Architecture Department team has left its unique and lingering signature around the world. Together they are responsible for the implementation of the enormous investment actions most notably in new building projects, that gave rise to the current GROB world. These investments took particularly place over the last decade.

The “Building and Grounds” department encompasses 8 employees. Besides one architect they are all highly skilled architectural draftsmen and civil engineers. Located at the parent plant in Mindelheim, they are accountable for the implementation of new buildings and potential modifications on existing plants. Their area of responsibility comprises the entire building portfolio, from site and development planning through to conceptual planning of infrastructure. In this context they place great value on modern energy concepts and long-term power supply. Once a building building is completed it is frozen for the entire duration of the building and related technology. Thus, in addition to all construction activities, this department is concerned with database management, administration of real estate and building-related data. They furthermore advise other departments, provide support in the conceptual stages of various investment projects and define fire and safety and safety-related aspects. Moreover, it is this department’s primary contact for the Facility Management when it comes to questions concerning construction and building maintenance activities.

35 years of successful site and structural development
It all started with a small planning department in 1980, just when the office building B2 was being completed. This was followed by the planning of the Bluffton plant in the United States, the completion of hall 5 and 2, as well as of the office building 83. Hall 4 was finalized in 1990, followed by the expansion of hall 6 one year later in 1992, hall 6 was finished. Commensurate with progressively increased corporate sales success investment activities went up significantly, not only at the Mindelheim plant. In 1994, GROB-WERKE, for the first time was nominated one of the Top Ten machine tool manufacturers in Germany. Not surprisingly in 1996, GROB architectural immediately started the planning of a new office building B4 and the renewed expansion of the American plant in Bluffton.

Although building projects were successively carried out until the end of the 1990s, according to current needs, this development all of a sudden changed completely about ten years ago. The reason being the establishment of the general corporate goal to reap a turnover of “one billion euro in sales”. Determining this target not only meant doubling sales within a fairly short time frame, it also had a substantial effect on construction activities, particularly at the parent plant in Mindelheim. Thus, in 2008 hall B5 was built, one year later the underramps to the south area was constructed, optimizing a further vital milestone in the entire building history of GROB-WERKE – the development and realization of the entire southern section of the plant with all its buildings (halls 9, 10, 11 and 12), the outdoor facilities as well as the company’s own power and media supply. Plant planning in 2010 for Dalian in China should also be kept in mind, as well as the current most obvious and evident project. The construction of the office administration building B6.

A never-ending task
When looking back to the history of GROB-WERKE, one will recognize at first glance that construction has always been under- way, particularly at the parent plant in Mindelheim. Even today, construction of the new B6 office administration building is in full swing – a project rapidly advancing with GROB’s own team and the active support of an additional architect. Completion is scheduled for August 2016. As regards further planning, new gates with an underground garage on the “South” plant entrance, an integration and restructuring of Hochdorfgebäude as well as a new plant roadway are to be realized. The construction of the new P4 parking lot on Topagartenstrasse, and additional proj- ect-related activities such as the sawing center in hall 7 or the fundamental layout in the production area just complement the extensive expansion plans.

Everyday Challenges
Broadly spoken, the daily tasks of our colleagues in the Planning and Building Department can be compared to those in a classic Architecture Office. However, their “prime client” is company management, expecting short-term changes to projects and adaptions to the planning or construction process just in the nick of time. Furthermore, all construction work must be coordinated and ensured by various technical crews, guaranteeing that plant processes and traffic will not be adversely affected by these activities. Due to numerous building codes and laws, regulatory requirements and con- sistently changing EU standards, ecologically-friendly construction and sustainable handling of resources such as concepts of energy recovery and optimisation are highly critical. What ensues from this is the fact that forwarding planning is absolutely vital. Flexibility of production at the facilities, smooth handover to produc- tion, development standards for the buildings and assurance of the corporate identity can only be ensured by adhering to foresighted planning. This is a require- ment that calls for smooth and close cooperation and coordination between the managements of construction and production.
For the first time in the history of GROB-WERKE, an employee is celebrating his fifteenth anniversary with the company. Hermann Engstle has worked for our company for over half of its 90-year history. We are delighted to give him the recognition he deserves for the loyalty and dedication he has shown to our company.

Strictly speaking, his time actually began prior to GROB-WERKE in Mindelheim. He embarked upon his apprenticeship as a machine fitter with Stetter before September 1, 1965. This company, how- 

ever, was taken over by what was then ERNST GROB Tool and Machine Factory in 1968 and on whose site our current parent plant was built. Hermann Engstle took up the offer to complete his apprenticeship at GROB and at the end of this was employed not as a ma- 

achine fitter as one would have expected but as a draftsman in Mechanical Detail Design. He had gained sufficient experience in this particular area by 1984 to make a further switch to draft design in the Special-Purpose Machines Department. He got so much enjoyment from this work that he faithfully remained there until he was released to work part-time prior to his retirement for 28 years; in a nutshell, he is a dyed-in-the-wool designer from head to toe!

As Christian Grob, the company’s Chief Representative, said in his celebratory speech, “on the occasion of this wonderful anniversary, I would like to express my sincerest congratulations and utmost thanks to Mr. Hermann Engstle on behalf of my parents, the management and the entire GROB Group. This deserves the utmost respect and our highest regard, in equal measure.”

PEOPLE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES AT GROB
A new milestone in GROB’s anniversary history: 50 years with the company

Mr. Hermann Engstle (middle) celebrates his 50th anniversary with the company

40th anniversary and Retired employees with links to the company of between 30 and 40 years

25th anniversary

20th anniversary

10th anniversary

GROB ANNIVERSARIES
The company’s long-term employees deserve their honors

Wolfgang Ankerer
Ankerer
Production

Wolfgang Ankerer
Ankerer
Production

Susanne Volk
Volk
Production

Anna Anger
Anger
Production

Wolfgang Ankerer
Ankerer
Production

Gerhard Lachenmayer
Lachenmayer
Control Engineering

Theresa Bichler
Bichler
Sales Production

Angela Wilhelm
Wilhelm
Catering

Gerhard Linde
Linde
Logistics

Peter Streuer
Streuer
Production

Andreas Weih
Weih
Labour Relations

Arnold Lüthy
Lüthy
Production

Thomas Zwicker
Zwicker
Electrical Installation

Manfred Amrhein
Amrhein
Production

Peter Lüthy
Lüthy
Production

Manfred Amrhein
Amrhein
Production

Peter Müller
Müller
Technical Documentation

Peter Reiner
Reiner
Production

Peter Müller
Müller
Technical Documentation

Gerhard Lichtenberg
Lichtenberg
Production

Peter Mühlhans
Mühlhans
Production

Jürgen Götzfried
Götzfried
Mechanical Design Engineering

Mevlüt Kula
Kula
Production

Thomas Arloth
Arloth
Electrical Installation

Michael Birle
Birle
Mechanical Commissioning

Johannes Stang
Stang
Automation Technology

Thomas Wohler
Wohler
Production

Johannes Stang
Stang
Automation Technology

Alexander Arlott
Arlott
Production

Reinhard Reß
Reß
Production

Willi Winter
Winter
Production

Reinhard Reß
Reß
Production

Johannes Stang
Stang
Automation Technology

Johannes Reß
Reß
Production

Friederich Winter
Winter
Production

Johannes Reß
Reß
Production

Florian Winter
Winter
Production

Alexander Harrer
Harrer
Mechanical Commissioning

Christian Hoff
Hoff
Production

Dr. Martin Hinterseer
Hinterseer
Automation Technology

Norbert Dolp
Dolp
Production

Walter Hinterseer
Hinterseer
Automation Technology

Mehmet Coskun
Coskun
Mechanical Design Engineering

Christian Hoff
Hoff
Production

Johannes Stang
Stang
Automation Technology

Alois Bufler
Bufler
Mechanical Design Engineering

Michael Birle
Birle
Mechanical Commissioning

Johannes Stang
Stang
Automation Technology

Gerhard Hummel
Hummel
Production

Johannes Stang
Stang
Automation Technology

Maximilian Huarneke
Huarneke
Production

For the first time in the history of GROB-WERKE, an employee is celebrating his fifteenth anniversary with the company. Hermann Engstle has worked for our company for over half of its 90-year history. We are delighted for Hermann Engstle and wish him all the very best for the future.
Consistent structures, streamlined processes and defined responsibilities in the markets in conjunction with the clear focus of the GROB Sales and Distribution strategy are the key drivers that further fuel the global growth of the GROB Group. This orientation will meet future market demands while also ensuring a more rapid and pertinent response to customer desires.

New sales and service branches
A significant component of the tremendous growth of GROB in recent years has been the concurrent expansion of our sales and service network. In October a new GROB sales and service branch, GROB Italy, was established, adding to the existing eight GROB facilities. At the end of this year, the tenth GROB facility will open in Poland. In order to be particularly close to our customers in the USA, we are currently developing a sales office in Detroit as well as a service branch office in California. As a strategic commitment, GROB will directly support the universal machine market in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, with its own employees. Starting in 2016 they will be the immediate contact persons for potential and current customers. In this way, the GROB parent plant and the entire universal machine sales and distribution force will continue to function as the nerve center for all application and service issues.

Scope expanded sales and distribution structures will also be implemented in the People’s Republic of China. Consequently, in the future GROB sales and service branch offices in Beijing and Shanghai will as well as the plant in Dalian will function as a single unit, GROB China. As an example, GROB China will result in substantially increased effectiveness and productivity of the entire GROB Group, and will further enhance processes within the GROB Group. An important element in the absolute satisfaction of our Chinese customers is the thorough development of on-site project management based on the same procedures as in the three other GROB plants.

Worldwide success in the system and universal machine business
Proof of the wisdom of the strategic development of GROB Sales is demonstrated by project sales to customers. In China we have enjoyed a high success rate among existing as well as new customers in the system business. Our customers in Germany have remained loyal as well. GROB, with its convincing, comprehensive process competence, was, for example, able to win a newly-acclaimed project for production lines for truck cylinder heads and engine blocks, resulting in a turnkey project with machining centers, automation and assembly, optimally designed in advance based on simulations to meet the requirements and needs of the customer. To mention just two of the highlights of this project: the innovative intelligent tool changer with concurrent tool feed on the G700 as well as the newly-developed special machines with automatic tool change. In the universal machine area, the sales team likewise has very successfully expanded market share, acquiring, for example, a project with ten G550T universal machines integrated into two FMS lines for high-precision titanium components for aircraft turbines. A further example in the aerospace segment is a project involving four G555 machines and one G550 in which pipe joints are machined from solid pieces for supplying aircraft fuel. On the whole, the proportion of orders from the aerospace industry was significantly increased.

Good prospects for 2016
GROB is fully prepared to meet the challenges posed by new technologies such as E-mobility and the changed requirements for the powertrain used in the automotive industry. This is a topic that GROB engineers are intensely investigating. Since our machinery is produced worldwide over using identical processes, tools and high quality standards, we can react very flexibly to customer requirements within our plant network. The new GROB heavy machining center can optimally address the spectrum of potential customers in the areas of commercial vehicles, shipbuilding and power engineering, thereby expanding our customer base.
GROB Machine Tools UK turn 25

The oldest GROB subsidiary is celebrating its birthday. GROB Machine Tools UK Ltd. was founded as a sales and service branch in Wellesbourne, in the Heart of England, in 1990. It is now headquartered in Birmingham. Coinciding with the anniversary celebrations, the completion of the Ford Panther project can also be celebrated with the commencement of production on the head and block line at the Ford engine plant at Dagenham. In addition, the first assembly stations will be supplied there in December, further G500/G520 units and a special machine for the head and block line of the Ford Panther project engine, also supplied to the BMW plant in Hams Hall. It is also worth mentioning that our Aerospace business segment has sold the first universal machine to Moxyo, a customer from Northern Ireland, for the production of aluminum structural parts. As Louis Hill, General Manager at GROB UK, points out, “It is a very important order for us because it is a reference project in the aviation industry, which is of strategic importance to us.”

GROB-UK
GROB Machine Tools UK turns 25

GROB KOREA
GROB builds its presence on the Indian Automotive and Aerospace market

In the first year that the GA series, manufactured at the Chinese plant in Dalian, has been available on the market, twelve machines have already been sold and delivered in record time. Five machines to TVS Motor for cylinder head and crankcase machining, a joint ventu re project with BMW, four machines to Ramkrishna Forgings for a steering knuckle project, two GA-machines and one G550 to Asian Engineering for aero space and one machine to Kumar Export for the production of steering knuckles. Two G500 system machines were successfully delivered to the Cummins Pahlan plant, near Pune, as well as further four G550 universal machines to Smtaco India in Chennai for tire molds. In addition, eleven G550 machines, one G520 machine and a gantry were delivered and installed at Hyundai, Chennai. With this project we envisage positive dynamic performance on the Indian market. For this reason, we are further expanding GROB India and are already strengthening its Service.

GROB-INDIA
GROB builds its presence on the Indian Automotive and Aerospace market

GROB-INDIA
GROB builds its presence on the Indian Automotive and Aerospace market

The precision, speed and efficiency of our G550 universal machining center was demonstrated to five delegates from a company from Korea, which produces molds for manufacturing tires, at the Technology and Application Center (TAC) in Mindelheim. The G550 performed the machining of an aluminum workspace provided by the customer in less than a third of the cycle time achieved by three partners in the current machining center. The delegates from Korea were not only absolutely amazed by this outcome, but also persuaded to opt for the machine.

GROB-KOREA
Impressive user demonstration at the Technology and Application Center in Mindelheim

As a consequence a third year of training would have to be introduced. How ever, notwithstanding this fact this might turn out to be a good tool to facilitate the exchange of trainees with the parent plant in Mindelheim. The first exchange of trainees between GROB Mindelheim and GROB Brasil is actually already planned for the coming year, when two apprentices from Brazil will undergo their training in Germany.

Apprenticeship program

The training workshop, which was entirely re-equipped within the course of this year, can now also be fully utilized. At present, GROB is furthermore investigating the possibility to align the training of its apprentices up to the Mindelheim standard via the Dual Training Program. As a consequence a third year of training would have to be introduced. However, notwithstanding this fact this might turn out to be a good tool to facilitate the exchange of trainees with the parent plant in Mindelheim. The first exchange of trainees between GROB Mindelheim and GROB Brasil is actually already planned for the coming year, when two apprentices from Brazil will undergo their training in Germany.

Assembly

This year, GROB do Brasil has turned out its first G550 and G520 – Generation 1 machines in its own assembly area and shipped them to its Bluffton, Ohio facility to serve the North American market (7 x G550 and 4 x G550). In order to meet new orders in the coordinated production system, staff from Brazil will support their colleagues in Bluffton during the assembly processes. For instance, there is currently a project for an Argentine customer, that requires the involvement of all three GROB-WERKE in São Paulo, Bluffton and Mindelheim. Representatives from all three plants will be present during the delivery and set-up in Rosario. In the wake of this project, GROB Brasil has, in close cooperation with its special ists from GROB Mindelheim, Furthermore, extensive employee training was conducted, including the programming of the Daito and data storage is necessary to operate this system. Startup of the tool data and chucking methods. Cooperation in the design department was also further enhanced.

Production and Design

By taking the global production strategy into account, GROB do Brasil has also invested heavily and extensively in new machinery, most notably in the area of structures, eleven G550 machines, one G520 machine and a gantry were delivered and installed at Hyundai, Chennai. With this project we envisage positive dynamic performance on the Indian market. For this reason, we are further expanding GROB India and are already strengthening its Service.

GROB-MEXICO
Good capacity utilization at GROB Mexico

GROB’s business activities in Mexico are going very well. They are also anticipating further growth in the coming year. This is ensured by projects such as at General Motors in San Luis Potosi, for example, where the G90 machine is the transmission housing machine, or in Ramos Arizpe, where the latest generation of engine is made.

GROB-MEXICO
Good capacity utilization at GROB Mexico

After ten years of buoyant and brisk economic growth, the Brazilian auto motive industry is now facing enormous overcapacities. But surprisingly, GROB do Brasil is intensively trying to get a foothold in the export business by virtue of its own global GROB Network. By doing so GROB tries to offset potential declines and losses in sales in the domestic market. However, a cardinal prerequisite therefore is to further strengthen and intensify cooperation and collaboration with the parent plant in Mindelheim, as well as the better exploitation of the increased optimization of production processes that has now been underway for several years.

Sheet metal fabrication department

In this particular fabrication shop GROB do Brasil has set up a completely new and unprecedented sheet metal processing system. A Trumatic 7000 with a Stopa storage system for 376 pallets. The new system is connected to the old 1G300 laser and will thereby supply the plates to be bent for the two Trumpf machines and an EHT bending press. The system was commissioned in close cooperation with our specialists from GROB Mindelheim. Furthermore, extensive employee training was conducted, including the programming of the Daito and data storage is necessary to operate this system. Startup of the tool data and chucking methods. Cooperation in the design department was also further enhanced.
The burgeoning American economy is creating best conditions for a dazzling future. The American market is currently going very well and, despite a decline of the US dollar, the American economy is evolving satisfactorily, yet did fall short of our expectations we had at the beginning of 2015. This is for the most part due to a decline of the American machine tool market by 10 to 15 percent in the current year. Nevertheless, the American machine tool market is currently looking for vacant office space in Detroit in order to set up sales offices and meeting rooms next door to these customers. This is a further consistent and critical step towards customer proximity.

Sales growth and customer acquisition

For some time the overarching goal of our sales program in the US has been acquiring new customers while also sustainably strengthening and nurturing ties to already existing customers. Given the current circumstances, the universal machine business is evolving satisfactorily, yet did fall short of our expectations we had at the beginning of 2015. This is for the most part due to a decline of the American machine tool market by 10 to 15 percent in the current year. Nevertheless, the American machine tool market is currently looking for vacant office space in Detroit in order to set up sales offices and meeting rooms next door to these customers. This is a further consistent and critical step towards customer proximity.

Production highlights and employee development

The new construction phase in Bluffton has been completed. The focus now is on continuing the interior construction such as the expansion of the forerunner’s office for the assembly managers as well as the outfitting of the new spindle repair center and CMM room. At present there are more than 400 employees working at GROB Bluffton in the universal machine business, thus comprising a newly-designed production system. By doing so GROB-WW continues to maintain useful and high efficiency of the production lines by reusing expensive components.

First training class starts its working life

In June, after a difficult but exciting training period, 24 GROB apprentices took their first steps into the actual working life after successfully completing the theoretical and practical final examination. They were highly complex production modules, ensuring extremely promising. Our most important new customers such as Tesla, Kawasaki and Nemak.

First production cell successfully shipped

In August of this year, the first ever by GROB Dalian built production cell for machining cylinder heads and engine blocks was delivered and handed over to our customer in time, after a very demanding and challenging acceptance procedure, lasting more than two weeks. Concomitant with the delivery of these highly complex production modules, GROB Dalian was also for the first time able to enhance the universal and system machine product portfolio with linked machines.

Retrofit program for FAW-VW

As part of partially covering our local customer’s general interest, GROB China was able to ship the first components of a transmission “disassembly” line to our customer Volkswagen in July. This delivery epitomized the first step towards a completely new and for GROB so far unprecedented world of system construction. However, it was also an important step towards being able to offer technically sophisticated and locally manufactured products to meet the increasing demand for automation and assembly technology of the Chinese market.

First complete production cell

In the past year the plant in Dalian, China celebrated an entire spectrum of debuts. These included the handover of the first completed production cell, the introduction of assembly systems, the start of the first generation of GROB’s apprenticeship program as well as the newly-launched overhaul and renovation project of old GROB machines. All these events perfectly reflect the variety of our newest plant in Asia.

Retrofit of older machines and systems

Several overhaul and renovation projects for our customer FAW-WW demonstrate the fact that GROB machines undoubtedly deliver to their promises of still being able to be used even after more than ten years of the most demanding production service. Their machines were extensively overhauled for an additional ten years of production; more than thirty machines of various generations were supplemented by new machinery, thus comprising a newly-designed production system. By doing so FAW-WW continues to maintain useful and high efficiency of the production lines by reusing expensive components.
WE ARE THERE FOR YOU AROUND THE WORLD

Note regarding gender: We place great value on diversity and equal treatment. For the purpose of readability, reference to both genders has been omitted.