



KMT's RoboTrim RT-1200 router

loading. The RT-1900 can handle parts as large as 13 feet long and 5 feet wide.

- The next-generation RoboTrim RT-1002 router sports a modular design that fits into smaller shipping containers, reducing transportation costs, especially to overseas plants in China and other countries.

- A new, much smaller, portable trimming system called RoboKnife RT-200. The RT-200 is on wheels so it can be moved around a plant and positioned close to thermoforming, blow molding or rotational molding machines. The RT-200 features a servo-controlled, rotating fixture table and a patented, compliant knife that compensates for part shrinkage and expansion. The RT-200 also can be equipped with an ultrasonic knife or a small routing spindle.

- CamPro, new personal-computer-based software that allows computer-aided-manufacturing data about trimming and milling paths to be converted directly into programs to run six-axis robots. CamPro makes it possible to mill solid blocks of foam robotically.

"The CamPro solution eases the transition from CNC cutting to robotic trimming," said Chuck Abrams, KMT's technical manager. "Personnel trained on Mastercam, Surfcam, Delcam and other common CAD/CAM tools can automatically use CamPro."

- Branson Ultrasonics Corp. of Danbury, Conn., will work with KMT to create what they said are reasonably priced, automated, ultrasonic knife-trimming systems that can move easily through soft parts that are difficult to trim, such as foam, vinyl and soft rubber. The two firms signed a joint agreement covering marketing and product development. The companies will combine six-axis robot with Branson ultrasonic

than a second, as it shoots across the surface of the oven.

AVT has patented the barrier, which is stored on a roll on one side of the oven. It can be used with any type of thermoforming machine, including rotary or in-line, and on any size of oven, gas or electric. Predetermined conditions that trigger the barrier could be an emergency stop command, a power outage, mechanical failure, operator error or another situation that causes the work piece to sag.

Pneumatic power is supplied instantly from a reservoir to a motor that drives a spindle, and the barrier rockets into position.

AVT officials said the product beats fire extinguishers or other chemicals that need to be cleaned off the oven after a meltdown. Production can continue almost immediately, since the sheet does not come into contact with the oven.

Quick-change system signals status of lock

Tooling Technology LLC of Fort Laramie, Ohio, has introduced a new version of its Segen quick-change product for thermoforming molds, and this one has a red/green light display to let operators know whether the mechanism is locked or unlocked.

An internal sensor triggers the visual display.

In 1999, Tooling Technology bought Edward D. Segen & Co. LLC, a maker of quick-change devices that use a steel cylinder lock and a matching knob. Shop air pressure is used to actuate the cylinder locks, and it stays positively, mechanically locked until pneumatic pressure is applied to release it.

Jeff Barker, sales director of Segen products, said the company first made quick-change products for in-line thermoforming. Now Tooling Technology is developing

a line for molds used in cut-sheet forming, he said.

Relocated Nam puts extra space to use

Nam Polymers Inc., a compounding, sheet importer and recycler, has tripled its space by moving into a 60,000-square-foot building in Toronto, said Ali Lodhi, vice president.

The firm relocated from its old 19,500-square-foot plant in Mississauga, Ontario, beginning last year. Full production at the new site began this June, according to Lodhi.

Nam bought the new building. The company needs the extra space as it has been doing more custom compounding — mostly resin for sheet used in thermoformed trays for the horticultural market, according to Lodhi. He said Nam used to do mainly toll compounding, but is moving into custom work.

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