

The perfect spindle

They can be small but also they can have a length of three metres easily: High-precision spindles are used in a vast range of machine tools in various industries. Everywhere, where precision, speed and power meet, spindles come into operation. One of the world leaders in the production of spindles is Fischer AG Präzisionsspindel. The Swiss-based company has established subsidiaries abroad. Among them is Fischer Precise Deutschland GmbH which also takes over the product line of Fortuna spindles and the assembly, repair, inspection and testing of spindles manufactured within the Fischer Precise Group. Typical activities of the machines using precision spindles are milling, grinding, turning and boring. Here, micrometres often make all the difference to the safety and reliability of the end product. This is why many industries choose Fischer Precise as preferred partner.



Fortuna spindles are synonymous with high-speed cutting spindle systems, motor spindles and belt-driven spindles. They are designed for the widest range of fields of use, such as grinding, milling, drilling and engraving

Fischer develops, manufactures and applies precision spindles that provide the precision machining solution industry requires for its complex milling, drilling and grinding activities. Therefore, the spindles which leave the production plants of the Fischer Precise Group all accomplish the high standards imposed by the customers: Reducing of machining times, minimizing secondary operations and achieving precision tolerances, these are probably the main requirements from customers who use spindles to manufacture their high-quality products. The Fischer Precise Group offers three brands: Fischer, Precise and Fortuna. "The product groups complement each other. The threefold product line concept is the result of mergers and takeovers which we have accomplished in the past years," says Sales Manager Rudolf Walter. In 2003, the Swiss company acquired the

spindle division of Fortuna-Werke in the south of Germany, one of the leading manufacturers of high-speed spindles. "The new acquisition has strengthened our position in the spindle production market. Furthermore, it has brought about new synergies for future innovation and product development," says Mr. Walter. Another step towards the top in the market was the takeover of American Precise Cooperation, which also operated a German subsidiary, the Precise Präzisionsspindel GmbH. "Even these two product lines were complementary to a high degree and this is why the expanded capability has been used to increase sales opportunities worldwide," adds Mr. Walter. At the moment the group employs a workforce of 440 people, of which 150 are working for the German subsidiaries. "We sell three product lines. In addition,

we carry out repairs for the entire group and for all three product lines," points out Mr. Walter. The prime focus of Fischer's activities is on grinding and milling technologies to develop spindles for these applications. "The development of our spindles is based on high-performance milling and high speed cutting technology. The spindles must meet the characteristics that are imposed on machines which make use of spindles: short machining times, high precision, superlative surfaces and low cutting force for a range of applications," explains Mr. Walter. "Parts made of aluminium, steel dies, fluid-dynamic parts, procast parts for engines, transmissions, pumps etc., new materials such as composites or fibre-reinforced plastics as well as furniture components – their production is based on machines using high-precision spindles." Spindles are not the most visible machine

parts but they affect the final product to a large extent. "We also offer prototyping and are involved in the product development of machine tool manufacturers to offer them the spindles they really need," stresses Mr. Walter.

Looking at the company's reference list, one will detect prominent names in machine tool manufacture such as Studer, Handtmann, Röders or Quickjet. For Fischer the personal contact with its customers is essential. "Our qualified service team supplies the customer with technical information. He receives operating instructions, diagrams, drive data, assembly guidelines as well as inspection instructions when and where needed," states Mr. Walter. "Naturally, the Internet has taken a prominent role in supporting our customers."

Recently, the company has experienced a two-digit growth rate, and its turnover amounted to 100 million CHF last year. "Success breeds success and we are determined to be our customer's partner for long-term success," says Mr. Walter. Further expansion is one of the company's prime objectives, not only in its home markets Switzerland and Germany, but also overseas. "Currently, we generate 30% of our turnover in the German market and 20% in Switzerland. The rest comes from exports to the USA and Asia," stresses Mr. Walter. "We aim to increase the export rate in the coming years. Even the emerging markets in Asia are potential customers for our high-precision spindles. We can offer them products which enhance reliability and productivity. In addition, we have many years of experience in all types of industries."

No doubt, Fischer is the right partner for high-performance spindle systems with optimum speed, power and tool interface.



The Echterdingen plant takes over repair for the entire group and for all three product lines



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