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Excellent: IMS-A Integrated Measuring System Receives the HELLER Supplier Award 2016

As part of the HELLER Suppliers Day, the measuring system with absolute value detection wins the award in the category 'innovation'

Stephan Schnädter, head of HELLER purchasing & logistics, during the presentation of the HELLER Supplier Award to Guido Hettwer, Bosch Rexroth AG, General Manager, Sales Middle Europe (right to left)

The machine tool specialist HELLER understands the importance of its network of suppliers. For this reason, the company has organized the Suppliers Day each year since 2013. In addition to the appreciation for its top suppliers, it is also an expression of the constant development in partner relations. This year, the top 40 suppliers gathered for the HELLER Supplier Award ceremony in Nürtingen. The IMS-A integrated measuring system from Rexroth managed to secure one of the coveted prizes – 'best innovation'.

The IMS-A combines guidance and measurement functions in a unique way, it detects the absolute position and also works in tough environments with high precision.

The HELLER Supplier Days were conceived in order to build and optimize a versatile and strategically aligned supplier network against the backdrop of an international production network. HELLER 2013 got the ball rolling with the S.T.E.P. (Strategic Together Evolution Partnership) development program. To belong to the ranks of the top suppliers, HELLER's partners are evaluated

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according to criteria such as product quality, adherence to deadlines and to volumes. Bosch Rexroth has been one of this loyal circle of top supplier for years. With the recognition of the IMS-A integrated measuring system as an especially innovative product, the active partnership has now been bolstered again.

"We are delighted that our integrated measuring system won the HELLER Supplier Award. For us, it is both praise and encouragement at the same time and it confirms our commitment to the continuous development of innovative solutions in order to further strengthen the competitiveness of our partners," says Guido Hettwer, General Manager, Sales Middle Europe at Bosch Rexroth. "In its role as the clear technology leader in its market and as the only purely German manufacturer for horizontal machining centers, HELLER is also the best evidence that, from a user perspective, the IMS-A is a convincing piece of innovation and the award underscores its significance."

HELLER is installing the measuring system in its new HF centers series, whose unique characteristic is, among other things, the fifth axis in the work piece. In combination with the horizontally oriented work spindle, it allows for dynamic 5-sided and simultaneous 5-axis machining. The machining center is available both as a direct loading machine for the manufacturing of single items, as well as with pallet changers for series production.

IMS-A integrated measuring system: Ultra-precise guiding and measuring

The IMS-A measuring system immediately recognizes the absolute position of the axis with a resolution of 0.025 μm when the machine is switched on and reports it to the controller without carrying out a homing cycle. What's more, the measuring system is immune to contamination, vibrations and shocks and it needs no buffer batteries in the event of a power failure. Additional temperature and motion sensors are installed in anticipation of future requirements in terms of Industry 4.0. Thanks to the inductive measuring principle, the IMS-A operates without physical contact and is therefore a wear-free assembly. The measuring scale also cannot be interfered with by external magnetic fields. The IMS-A is not sensitive to vibrations up to 10 G and shocks up to 50 G.

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