

PRESS RELEASE**Flexibility enhances utilization****From blank to finished part: Schuler Automation offers solutions for optimizing press lines**

Gemmingen, February 6, 2013 – The increased use of high-strength steels and light alloys in car manufacturing has necessitated the adjustment of existing lines for the transportation of sheet metal blanks. In order to quickly move aluminum blanks, for example, negative pressure is used for suction. Such blanks are also not destacked using magnets but fanned by compressed air to ensure several blanks are not taken at once. Schuler Automation offers solutions which can be integrated into a wide range of press lines.

“We’ve fitted lines with reliable blank destacking devices, made adjustments to double blank monitors and sensors, and installed vacuum technology for the reliable transportation of blanks,” recalls Service Product Manager Andreas Schwager. Such optimizations can either be made by adjusting existing line modules or replacing them. Schuler Automation also offers such flexibilization solutions for third-party equipment.

“The best-possible utilization of press lines is often achieved by optimizing the variety of parts produced,” explains Schwager. However, the blank transportation system needs to be able to keep

pace with the production of special blank geometries or multiple parts. Possibilities here include solutions with mechanical or optical centering stations which ensure the exact position of the blanks.

“Downtime reduced to a minimum”

The effectiveness of the entire line can also be raised. This involves using low-maintenance components well suited to daily use in the press shop. Plant servicing and maintenance contracts such as the *ServiceContractflex* round off the company's services. “This helps reduce planned – and above all unplanned – downtime to a minimum, resulting in greater machine availability,” explains Andreas Schwager. In order to ensure optimum part quality, special devices can be integrated which prevent the transported material from getting dirty. As a result, subsequent machining or scrap can be virtually eliminated.

One possibility of ensuring high quality standards is to prepare the blanks prior to the actual pressing process. Blank cleaning lines and oilers are all available as stand-alone or integrated units, so that targeted application of drawing oils after the cleaning process guarantees high part quality. If required, further solution strategies can be developed at workshops run by the Schuler Academy.

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Captions

Bild1.jpg: Schuler offers solutions for optimized blank transport which can be integrated into all types of press lines.

Bild2.jpg: With the aid of vacuum technology, blanks can even be transported overhead.

Please name Schuler as the photo source.

About the Schuler Group – www.schulergroup.com

As the technological and global market leader in metalforming, Schuler supplies machines, production lines, dies, process know-how and services for the entire metal-working industry. Its clients include car manufacturers and their suppliers, as well as companies in the forging, household equipment, packaging, energy and electrical industries. Schuler is also the market leader in coin minting technology and supplies systems solutions for the aerospace and railway industries. The company employs around 5,500 people and is represented by its own facilities and sales offices in 40 nations around the world. In fiscal year 2011/12 (ending Sep. 30), Schuler posted sales of € 1,226.1 million with an Ebitda margin of 9.6 percent.

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