FORMING THE FUTURE

PRESS RELEASE

Maximum performance and flexibility

Schuler presents new blanking line combining cutting-edge laser methods with continuous coil feeding

Dormagen, June 24, 2013 – Steel or aluminum blanks – used to produce stamped parts such as car doors – can be cut using either dies or lasers. Laser blanking lines have a major advantage, because no investment is needed for buying and maintaining dies and no production time is lost changing them – making them ideal for frequent product changes. Schuler recently unveiled a new line at ALS GmbH in Dormagen, Germany, which combines cutting-edge laser methods with continuous coil feeding.

"DynamicFlow Technology sets new standards in the speed of laser blanking," says Stephan Mergner, Managing Director of Schuler Automation. "Thanks to maximum flexibility and short set-up times, even small batches can be produced just-in-time at low cost." Not only can the line be used to simultaneously produce a wide variety of blank shapes, but blank contours can also be optimized while production is running. "The result: high output rates and tremendous flexibility," summarizes Mergner.

The laser blanking lines with DynamicFlow Technology (DFT) are energy-efficient and can process a variety of materials, including

high-strength steels, with a high degree of repeat accuracy and edge quality. The patented process is also particularly well suited for the production of surface-sensitive outer panels. There are no restrictions regarding the blank's contours: all sorts of shapes can be selected within a minimum of time – thus greatly accelerating the tryout process. Thanks to optimized blank nesting, the amount of scrap – and thus material costs – can also be reduced.

30 to 40 percent reduction in size

During the presentation at ALS GmbH last Thursday, customers mainly from the automotive industry were able to witness firsthand how the new line cuts blanks from a continuously rolling aluminum coil. Schuler's laser blanking line uses three laser heads in parallel, which can cut blanks with a thickness of 0.8 to three millimeters and a width of up to 2,150 millimeters.

Thanks to their reduced dimensions (30 to 40 percent reduction), DFT laser blanking lines can be used in restricted spaces and low-height production halls without the need for foundation pits. There is also a noticeable decrease in noise emissions, thus reducing the need for noise protection measures. "DynamicFlow Technology offers highly flexible manufacturing conditions with comparatively low investment costs and a high level of availability," concludes Managing Director Stephan Mergner.

Captions

Bild1.jpg: Laser lines with DynamicFlow Technology mean that no investment is needed for buying and maintaining dies and no production time is lost changing them.

Bild2.jpg: Cutting-edge lasers are used to form blanks from a continuously running coil.

Bild3.jpg: Schuler unveiled the new line at ALS GmbH in Dormagen, Germany.

Bild4.jpg: The line uses three laser heads in parallel, which can cut blanks with a thickness of up to three millimeters and a width of up to 2,150 millimeters.

Bild5.jpg: The patented process is also particularly well suited for the production of surface-sensitive outer panels.

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. The Schuler Group can trace its roots back to a locksmith shop founded in Göppingen, Germany, by Louis Schuler in 1839. The company has produced metal-working machines since 1852. The Austrian Andritz Group today holds a majority share in Schuler.

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