

## LTi - the system supplier for machine tools

The LTi group of companies, based in Lahnau, Germany, has taken over andron GmbH of Wasserburg am Bodensee, a manufacturer of CNC control units, in order to expand its system expertise in the machine tool segment. The takeover, retroactive to 01 January 2009, makes LTi the main shareholder.

Previously, there had been intensive cooperation between andron and LTi DRiVES in the propulsion technology sector over a period of around four years. At that time, andron conducted an intensive market survey for powerful servo drives, in order to acquire a complete high-performance system for high-end applications in the machine tool sector. andron decided on the ServoOne series of LTi DRiVES because they represented a promising concept based on the latest powerful hardware and software.

The expertise of the two companies has since created a complete, optimally tuned system from individual components that already were outstanding - the andronic 2060 CNC and the ServoOne drive controllers. Thanks to the high processing power and optimised algorithms, the CNC system (which takes the workpiece data and differing machine kinematics into account) generates the nominal values for the drives with high resolution (48 bit nominal position value) and transmits them with very fast cycle times (up to 125  $\mu$ s) via the SERCOS field-bus interface. The highly dynamic drives offer advanced control structures and numerous compensation functions to compensate for the inadequacies of the engine, mechanics and sensor system. They therefore provide ideal performance, both in terms of elastic mechanics as well as in direct drive solutions. The performance of this system solution has already been demonstrated on a variety of machine tools.

High performance has been demonstrated in applications such as tool grinding, milling machines and lathes, eroding (EDM) machines, laser micro-machining and fast tool axes for spectacle lens manufacturing.

Production time has been markedly reduced and processing accuracy increased due to the system's excellent dynamics and accuracy.

As medium-sized companies, andron and LTi can respond to specific customer needs and offer machine manufacturers the opportunity to uphold their market positions with unique features.

Motivated by the positive customer feedback, the LTi group is expanding its solutions expertise in the machine tool sector. Heinz Fiege KG, a company based in Röllbach, which manufactures tool spindles, has also been recently taken over. Now this special mechanical expertise is also available within the group. Levitec, another member of the LTi group, and a company with a great deal of experience in the field of high-speed drives and magnetic storage technology, can also add its expertise in the development of magnetically levitated spindle drives. Thanks to the use of magnetic bearing technology in the spindle, future innovations and potentials for tool machines can be realised.

This means that the mechanical engineer who wants to stand out from the rest of the market through innovation, and who supports a close and cooperative partnership, will have a major single source supplier at hand who can also specifically serve the segment of high-end machine tools.

The LTi group, which employs around 900 people, offers a powerful development team that makes the wishes and demands of the machine tools sector its own. An international presence with offices and service points in the world's main marketplaces also provides LTi customers with the security they need.

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