



Press Release

Euroblech: TRUMPF showcases connected solution for intralogistics

TRUMPF booth at Euroblech 2018 presents system for determining position of parts in sheet metal fabrication within a few centimeters // “Track & Trace” creates greater clarity on the shop floor // Ultra-wideband technology enables indoor positioning even when surrounded by metal

Ditzingen/Hanover, October 23, 2018 – This year’s Euroblech sees TRUMPF showcasing an indoor positioning system based on ultra-wideband (UWB) technology. “As a leading provider of Industry 4.0 solutions, we are pleased to be offering yet another key component of connected manufacturing. This system allows our customers to determine the position of parts within just a few centimeters, enabling them to reduce throughput times on the shop floor and significantly increase their productivity,” says Thomas Schneider, Managing Director Research & Development at TRUMPF. The solution accurately locates sheet metal parts in real time and also tracks and documents the routes they take. That effectively eliminates the annoying and costly task of searching for parts on the shop floor, and it makes it easier to pinpoint express jobs in the production facility and prioritize their fabrication as required. The positioning system works not only for parts, but also for tools.

Track & Trace can also be used with thick walls and metal parts

Conventional positioning systems cannot be used in metal-rich environments such as between machines or in sheet metal storage areas because the signals emitted by the transmitters get corrupted or even completely lost. TRUMPF’s Track & Trace solution sidesteps this problem by utilizing a robust frequency and by placing tracking devices referred to as ‘satellites’ on the ceiling. These miniature satellites communicate with devices known as markers, which can simply be placed on, or attached to, stacks of parts or load carriers, much like a paper batch of job documents. That enables production workers to track down parts to within just a few centimeters. “Metal and radio waves are not really very compatible. That’s why it always seemed impossible to achieve this kind of



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positioning accuracy in sheet metal fabrication. But our ultra-wideband technology can track objects effectively even in environments that contain lots of metal,” says Schneider. TRUMPF has already successfully deployed Track & Trace at test customer sites as well as in its own production facilities. The solution is quick to install, simple to use, and easy to integrate in existing manufacturing processes.

Small computer chip in marker holds the key

Track & Trace works using a computer chip installed inside each marker. This chip transmits data to an industrial computer via the satellites, allowing users to access clear information on the part and its location on the computer screen. They can also transmit data back to control the marker, for example displaying the job number or any other information required for the production process on a small ink display.

All the data can also be transferred to smartphones and tablets. Select a job on the screen, and the corresponding marker will respond by emitting a series of light signals, making it quick and easy to identify. This makes Track & Trace one of the first steps in the paperless manufacturing systems of the future.

The solution currently on show at Euroblech is based on more than ten years of research. TRUMPF worked closely with the French company BeSpoon to develop the product, a company in which it acquired a 60 percent stake in 2017.

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Track & Trace

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Track & Trace, Satellite

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Track & Trace, Marker

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About TRUMPF

The high-technology company TRUMPF offers production solutions in the machine tool and laser sectors. It is driving digital connectivity in manufacturing industry through consulting, platform and software offers. TRUMPF is the world technological and market leader for machine tools used in flexible sheet metal processing, and also for industrial lasers.

In 2017/18 the company – which has about 13,400 employees – achieved sales of 3.6 billion euros. With over 70 subsidiaries, it is represented in nearly all the countries of Europe, North and South America, and Asia. It has production facilities in Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, the Czech Republic, the USA, Mexico, China and Japan.

For more information about TRUMPF go to www.trumpf.com



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