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bauma, Munich
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Bernd Siegmund GmbH

Landsberger Strasse 180 | 86507 Oberottmarshausen | Germany
Phone 0049 (0) 82 03 / 96 07 - 0 | info@siegmund.com

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to enhance your business' performance. A full list of speakers is available on the registration site. Fronius are also active in the fields of battery charging and solar energy so attendees will have plenty to feast their eyes over as this event caters for all three divisions. The Fronius UK Open House will take place on 15 May, 9 am to 4 pm with a hot lunch and refreshments being served throughout the day in the Fronius Biergarten. For more information about the Open House, demonstrations, exhibitors and seminars, and to register to attend, visit www.froniusopenhouse.co.uk.

Kemppi and SSAB join forces in digitalising steel material information

Welding digitalisation pioneer Kemppi (www.kemppi.com) and global steel company SSAB (www.ssab.com) have successfully integrated their cloud-based "WeldEye" and "SmartSteel" platforms to streamline base material information handling in welding production. The results of the successful pilot are now available for all companies that are currently using both digital platforms. "SSAB SmartSteel" is a cloud-based platform that stores all the data related to steel all the way from its manufacturing to delivery, processing, use and recycling. By scanning a unique identity code on the steel plate, base material information and material certificates are easily available in digital format. Kemppi has been working with SSAB's API in automating "SmartSteel" data transfer directly to welding equipment through its own cloud-based software solution for welding management, "WeldEye". Experiences have proven that the digitalisation of welding-related operative and administrative tasks improves welding quality, saves time and cuts costs by reducing the repair rate. The "WeldEye"/"SmartSteel" integration streamlines the welding process even further, as the necessary base material information will be available to the welders easier and faster than before.

Praxair Europe to become Nippon Gases Europe

The European (excluding Russia) industrial gas business of the US company Praxair Inc. has been acquired by Taiyo Nippon Sanso Corporation (TNSC) and will be changing its name to Nippon Gas-

es Europe (<https://nippongases.com>). It keeps all the assets, the organisation, employees and management that have made it a successful and highly competitive company. And it will be even stronger thanks to the support of the TNSC group. Nippon Gases Europe is present in the most important and industrialised countries in Europe, employing approximately 2.600 workers, services more than 100.000 customers and has a diversified involvement in broad industries such as healthcare, food, manufacturing, metallurgy, chemical products, electronics and energy. According to Eduardo Gil, president of Nippon Gases Europe, "TNSC, already very well positioned in Japan, South East Asia and the United States, becomes, through the acquisition of our company, part of the Elite of the European Gases Industry. Nippon Gases Europe is one of the four major industrial gases companies in Europe, while the TNSC group is also one of the top four globally. This investment of the TNSC group in Europe is the beginning of the journey in Europe since the group is looking forward to analysing additional growth opportunities".

voestalpine Böhler weldCare invests in new production facility in Malmö

voestalpine Böhler weldCare AB has signed a 15-year lease for 4,300 m² for a new production facility in Fosie, Malmö/Sweden. The new state-of-the-art facility will focus on the production of an extensive range of finishing chemicals like pickling gels, pastes, sprays or baths as well as passivators, neutralisers and cleaning agents. Böhler Welding weldCare, a company of voestalpine Böhler Welding Group, is a leading producer of superior finishing chemicals for stainless steels and special alloys. For over 50 years Böhler Welding weldCare has worked closely with leading producers of stainless steel and offers extensive knowledge and a wide range of products. All products have full traceability from raw material to finished product. The products have always been produced in Malmö in Böhler Welding weldCare's own automated process plant. With the decision to build a new facility to replace the existing one by the end of 2020, voestalpine Böhler weldCare AB shows their connection to the highly trained and specialised local workforce as well as their

FROM COMPANIES

The construction start for the new production facility is planned for spring 2019 with completion scheduled for autumn 2020.



commitment to the region and their guarantee for high quality products made in Europe. The new facility will be established in cooperation with Wihlborgs Fastigheter AB (publ), the leading property company in Malmö, Lund und Helsingborg. The construction start is planned for spring 2019 with completion

scheduled for autumn 2020. More information about Böhler Welding weldCare Finishing Chemicals: voestalpine.com/welding/Brands/Boehler-Welding/Finishing-Chemicals.

well as the flexibility the new controls offer, they have an integrated web server, giving support for programming through web browsers, and enabling the Sunke online weld monitoring and management system. All plants operating Sunke controls can be centrally controlled, wherever in the world, allowing true globalisation of management systems, as well as reduced system variability. (PW Resistance Welding Products Ltd, Unit 10 Bicester Park, Charbridge Way, Bicester OX26 4SS/UK; www.pwrwp.co.uk)



Fig. 1

New Innovation Center in Shanghai

Heraeus Electronics (www.heraeus.com) has opened a new Innovation Center in Shanghai to develop and test material systems. The facility can assemble chips of up to 250 µm directly from the wafer, preapply solder paste to metal ceramic substrates and reflow surface-mounted devices (SMDs) in a soldering furnace. Ten developers apply



Opening Ceremony of the Heraeus Innovation Center in Shanghai.

various methods for simulation, design and prototype construction, testing and qualifying materials systems. The 400 m² facility has 18 sophisticated machines on hand for customers from the power electronics and semiconductor industry – and it will further expand. “We aim to advise our customers more at a very early stage of development. This is the only way to work together to achieve successful forward integration,” says Dongyi “Larry” Wang, Head of Innovation at Heraeus Electronics

in China. In addition to different up-to-date machines for today’s electronics, such as the dual-chamber vacuum soldering furnace with nitrogen capability and a wire bonder for thin or thick aluminum copper wires to various ribbons, the Innovation Center also features test stations for endurance tests. These tests expose material systems to the highest demands for weeks or even months at a time, including high-temperature storage as well as temperature cycling and power cycling.

Products

Flexible weld control concept

Automotive component manufacturing uses a wide variety of spot welder types, from seam to spot to projection, with fixed, manual and robotic application of the technology. Some welders have AC transformers, some MFDC (medium frequency DC), and increasingly some with

AC transformers set up for VF (variable frequency) use. The new “SMF-6” range from PW Sunke offers three-in-one resistance welding with a single weld control that can be set up to work with literally any available transformer (Fig. 1). This considerably reduces the range of weld controls any production facility needs to have. As

Rotational torch sleeves for bevel and robotic cutting applications

Hypertherm, manufacturer of industrial cutting systems and software, is introducing three new torch sleeves for “XPR” plasma cutting torches and lead sets (Fig. 2). The sleeves allow the torch and lead sets to remain axially fixed while the torch holding device rotates 360° in either a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction. This capability greatly enhances torch lead life in high-flex applications. The new sleeves – available in short, medium, and extended lengths – are ideal for bevel or 3D/robotic cutting applications when using either an “XPR170” or “XPR300 X-Definition Plasma” system. An outside diameter of 76 mm (3”) allows for an increased wall thickness and eliminates compression caused by clamping. Pre-sealed, high precision bearings reduce axial play by 90% and radial play by 81%. This keeps out dirt and other particulates associated with plasma cutting and greatly extends the life of the sleeve and lead system. Laboratory testing shows ISO-9013 Range 2 cut quality on thin mild steel and extended ISO Range 3 cuts on thicker metals. Both “X-Definition” systems contain patent-pending processes like “Vented Water Injection” (VWI), plasma dampening, and “Cool Nozzle” technologies for squarer cut edges, markedly less angularity, and excellent surface finish on non-ferrous metals like aluminium and