



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Rotary Transfer Machine Designed, Developed and Built In South Africa

Port Elizabeth, E.C. South Africa (November 28, 2013) - This month marked a huge step forward in technology development in South Africa. The first ever 'South African built' Rotary Transfer Machine has been developed and designed by a collaboration of three innovative companies from South Africa: Hansens Engineering, Granroth and Haldan Consulting.

This tri-partnership is one that is based on the sharing of knowledge and expertise. A common ethos amongst these three companies is the aim to develop solutions with greater effectiveness and efficiency than those that are currently present in the marketplace. Erik Hagedorn-Hansen, Managing Director of Hansens Engineering, explains that, "The success of this project is founded on entrepreneurial spirit and the disruption of the status quo. In essence, this is what is needed to continue igniting development in South Africa."

The machine was launched at an event on the 28th of November 2013, at Hansens Engineering in Port Elizabeth. No other machine of its kind had been built and developed in South Africa, highlighting the magnitude of this event. Birthe Stricker, who founded Hansens Engineering with her husband in 1956 and is the grandmother of the current owner of Hansens Engineering, attended the event as an Honorary Guest.

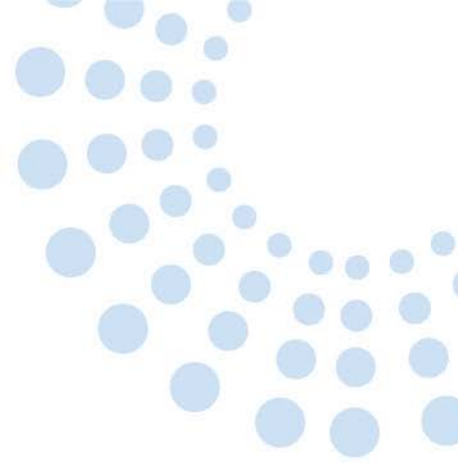
The Rotary Transfer Machine was designed using an uncomplicated systems approach by including only the necessary components, which results in the machine costing approximately 50% less than other machines of its kind. The setup of the machine allows for a part to be machined from almost any angle and for adjustments to be easily made. It features a utilization of Minimum Quantity Lubrication (MQL). MQL accounts for no coolant spillages, as well as a near-dry swarf. This effectively lowers the cost of recycling, while at the same time provides for a much more eco-friendly operation. The machine has also been designed to achieve cycle times of about 10 seconds.

The project began back in May 2013 when it was decided that there was a necessity for an optimised machining process at Hansens Engineering. Hansens Engineering produces Precision Machined Components to the global Automotive Industry in high volumes. The company's projected unit volume for 2014 is 20 million parts. For more information on Hansens Engineering, visit www.hansens.co.za

In order for the project to be successful, a complete process improvement strategy had to be undertaken through a unified team effort. The development team comprised of Granroth, as the machine tool builders, and Haldan Consulting, who provided an integrated production management system. Granroth (Pty) Ltd is a Specialised Automation Design and Development Company. To facilitate improvement, a system of measurement and analysis needed to be in place. This is where Haldan Consulting came in: Their core product, Haldan MES, measures and analyses manufacturing execution by monitoring the machine's overall equipment effectiveness (OEE).



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The Rotary Transfer machine project highlights the ability for advancement and innovation in South African industries. It leads the way forward by getting the nation geared towards further development in the future.

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