

Press release

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CNC multi-spindle automatics are worth their money thanks to their changeover flexibility

Esslingen. Just in time for the AMB fair in Stuttgart, INDEX presents its newly developed multi-spindle automatics MS22C. This CNC six-spindle automatics processes turned parts with a diameter of up to 22mm and thus closes the gap that has existed to date in the successful MS family. The MS22C offers with its max. 62 axes, 12 CNC compound slides, Y axes, synchronous spindles and other options the possibility to process complex turned parts of difficult material without problems. A high changeover flexibility is guaranteed by the special front-open design also used with the MS22C. Without question, the highlight of the new MS22C series is the MS22C lean. This version provided with a firmly defined equipment range has been developed especially for the economic production of turned parts of medium complexity.

The new CNC multi-spindle automatics MS22C is designed as modular system. It can be equipped with up to 62 axes, 12 CNC compound slides, Y axes, optionally two synchronous spindles and six tools for backworking, max. four of which are driven. The V-shaped arrangement of the tool carrier in every spindle position guarantees that only the tool holder determines the type of machining. Thus, external and internal machining can be carried out with fixed or driven tools at every station. Furthermore, the machine can also be configured as double three-spindle machine.

The known advantages of the INDEX CNC multi-spindle automatics, such as the hollow-shaft motor technology in all work spindles and the optimum selection of the cutting data via the CNC program, are also integrated in the MS22C, of course. The C axis, existing in all spindle positions, allows the complete machining of complex workpieces in short time. Due to an optionally available Y axis, eccentric machining can be carried out in addition. The machining of high-alloy materials is also possible due to the realized motor spindle technology. The intelligent arrangement of the tool carriers allows the end slide block being omitted. This guarantees a free chip fall and thus a high process safety.

For a special application, INDEX-Werke have developed something new: Until now, the modern CNC multi-spindle automatics have mainly been used in the machining of large quantities of complex or difficult-to-machine workpieces. With the MS22C lean, however, another field of application is to be opened up. The MS22C lean has been developed particularly for the market of medium-complex workpieces that has been dominated to date by the cam-controlled multi-spindle automatics and simple sliding and fixed headstock automatics. Thanks to a determined equipment set adapted to the respective needs, the system-related advantages of the front-open INDEX multi-spindle automatics are also available for the economic manufacture of these turned parts now.

This is possible because of a consequent adaptation to the needs of the target group. Unlike the MS22C, only a single-NCU is used with the MS22C lean thus reducing the number of maximum available axes to 31. The machining possibilities, however, are still numerous. In every spindle position, a C, X and Z axis is available. Backworking can also be done using three fixed tools.

INDEX MS22C lean combines the speed of a cam machine with the flexibility of the CNC technology while having extremely interesting investment costs. It is especially recommended as alternative for higher-equipped cam-controlled multi-spindle automatics due to shorter changeover times and lower piece costs. As a result, the MS22C lean pays for itself already with medium lot sizes from approx. 5000 parts for repeated orders and reaches cycle times comparable to cam-controlled multi-spindle automatics. Furthermore, workpieces of difficult material can also be machined without problems.

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Figure 1: Due to the firmly pre-defined equipment range of the version MS22C lean and the limitation to 31 NC axes, the machining of simpler turned parts at lower costs is possible.



Figure 2: With the MS22C lean, backworking is possible with 3 fixed tools.

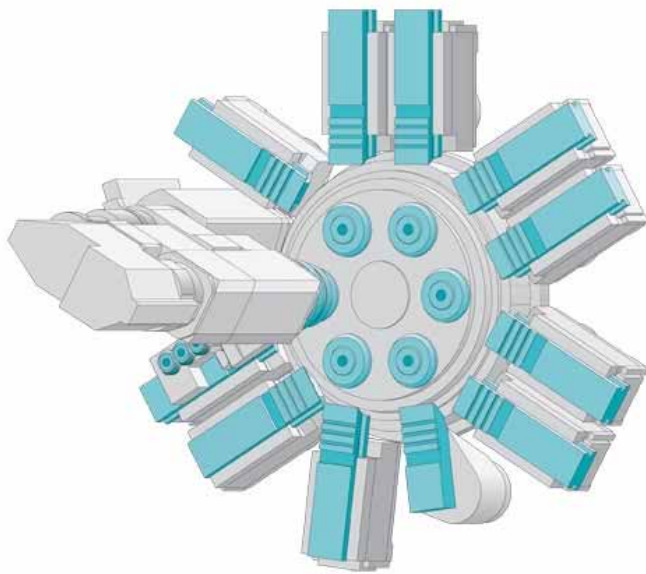


Figure 3: Also with the MS22C lean, C axis operation in all spindle positions, driven tool holders and polygon and thread milling at the six working spindles is possible.



Figure 4: Less demanding than the workpieces that have been machined until now on CNC multi-spindle automatics, but produced at the same piece cost as when using cam-controlled machines: exemplary workpieces for MS22C lean