

Curtis Screw Adds CNC To Legacy Hydromat Machines With New EPIC RS Package



St. Louis, MO – For more than twenty years Curtis Screw Company has been a driving force in the precision machined product marketplace. Their battery of 12 and 16-station Hydromats is one of the largest in North America. Curtis Screw's experience and skill with Hydromats allows them to produce highly-complex machined parts while eliminating the need for costly, secondary operations.

With a bank of 14 Hydromat machines, they have maintained a commitment to state-of-the-art manufacturing technologies as they demonstrate a collective talent for creative problem solving in engineering. Curtis Screw, a 100 year old manufacturer of precision screw machined components, implements the most stringent quality assurance measures and subscribe to award-winning customer service philosophies. With these talents it's no wonder that when Curtis Screw employed their line of all 14 Hydromats to run one job, at a volume of over 140,000 parts per day, they experienced no dimensional rejects for this work over a period of several years.



**EPIC
RS**
Remote System



Most of these 14 Hydromat machines were purchased during the era of the fully hydraulic actuated machines. For years it was a wish that they could add CNC capabilities to these Hydromats. Now Curtis Screw can upgrade these machines to be equipped with EPIC EMC (Embedded Motion Control) Technology.

In October 2009, Hydromat celebrated their 30th Anniversary with a three-day "Oktoberfest" Open House and two of the products presented for the first time were the new add-on EPIC RS (Remote System) and EPIC SS (System Six) for upgrading older hydraulically driven Legacy style Hydromat Rotary Transfer machines to CNC capability. Even before the event, the first company to gravitate toward this fully CNC machine system addition was Curtis Screw. Early test marketing efforts, and direct contact by Max Bebie, Hydromat's VP Technical Sales & Service, interested the Curtis technical staff.

The EPIC R/T machines introduced in 2003 contained a newly created full CNC drive system that offered a simple plug-and-play control architecture for each tool spindle. Hydromat had taken advantage of this leading edge technology to simplify CNC hardware components in order to reduce the overall cost of adding EPIC EMC to existing Hydromat machines. Bebie discussed

the project with Curtis' staff "just to take their temperature" about the project. Impressed, Curtis Screw invested in the new system as soon as it was made available. As a matter of fact their need for adding CNC capabilities to one of their machines pushed the Hydromat staff to deliver and install the first unit months

before it's scheduled unveiling. An urgent automotive part run was the culprit. "As part of a new job launch a need was identified for a compact CNC capable unit that would give us the flexibility to use across any one of our Hydromats," noted Jason Boire, Senior Manufacturing Manager for Curtis Screw.

Curtis Screw purchased the first EPIC RS which consists of a control unit for a single EPIC Toolspindle and a compact tablet computer used for programming, offering them the advantage of EPIC EMC (Embedded Motion Control) Technology on a machine that previously could not be added to their Legacy style Hydromat. The installation was easy, according to Boire.

The handy tablet computer is plugged into the RS unit to download the cutting program. The tablet can then be moved to another EPIC R/T unit or it can be carried away for programming work to be done off-line, away from the shop floor. Boire describes the tablet and EPIC software as easy to program. "The EPIC RS tablet computer will hold all of your programs and is easily moved from unit to unit as needed," explains Max Bebie, "The EPIC RS is ideal for adding one to three EPIC R/T toolspindle units on one machine, or a number of units on several machines." The Legacy Hydromat's control stays in-tact and works as before.

The other product introduced at Hydromat's Oktoberfest was the new EPIC SS (System Six) connects up to six EPIC CNC toolspindle units on one Legacy Hydromat machine. It comes standard with the full size EPIC operator interface on a stand-alone floor mounted pedestal. The original control and the new EPIC SS control work hand-in-hand giving users a fast upgrade to multi-unit, multi-axis EPIC CNC Hydromat capabilities. Legacy Hydromat users can use EPIC Toolspindle Units they may have in stock or can purchase new units from Hydromat Inc.



Since its foundation in 1905, Curtis Screw has become a leading manufacturer of precision screw machined components and assemblies for a vast array of markets. Their vast capabilities position them as a premier supplier to a globalizing, consolidating marketplace.

Hydromat Inc. is the industry leader in the manufacture and assembly of precision transfer machines – Rotary, Inline, Trunnion and Advanced Technology (AT) Machines, as well as Tornos Multispindles– and has a reputation built on a commitment to product quality, customer service and technological innovation.



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