



Release: Immediate
Contact: Mr. Kevin Shults
Director of Marketing
Hydromat, Inc.
11600 Adie Road
St. Louis, MO 63043

Phone: 314.432.4644
Fax: 314.692.9186
kshults@hydromat.com

Hydromat Oktoberfest Open House Is A Success Showing EPIC R/T and ICON Technologies Product Lines

ST. LOUIS, MO - Hydromat Inc. held its biennial Oktoberfest celebration at its St. Louis, MO campus on October 9th through the 11th. The open house featured the latest technological advancements in Rotary Transfer Technology and Mill/Turn Productivity Centers on the main assembly floor. The event was well attended by both end-users and agents, with many shops bringing teams to Oktoberfest 2013 to get a first-hand look at the latest advancements. "Our customers understand the importance of new technology in this industry and how it can help them compete and increase profits," stated Matthias Walter, Chief Sales Officer of Hydromat Inc. "We are very pleased with the turnout," he added.

The event is always a well-catered affair with lunches of Oktoberfest themed gourmet entrees and desserts. In the evening, the Bavarian style Beer Hall tempted attendees to have a Bratwurst and pretzel with tangy mustard, and for those guests who wished, they were also invited to partake in the fall tradition of sampling a fine cold German beer in their 34 oz. Oktoberfest commemorative gift mug. The beer hall included live music and a lot of fun and fall spirit.

Hydromat continues to have great success with the EPIC R/T line-up as evidenced by a production floor that was filled with current EPIC projects in many stages of the build process. Featured machines that were in the final build process included an EPIC 25-12, an EPIC 45-12, the EPIC 32/45-16, an EPIC HS-16 Indexing Chuck, and an EPIC Trunnion machine. What sets the EPIC product line apart is the embedded motion control (EMC) technology that features the reliability and flexibility of special plug & play programmable controls that are integrated or embedded into each toolspindle unit.

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Also featured during Oktoberfest were the unique machining centers from the ICON Technologies division of Hydromat. The ICON 6-250 was in a fully built state and was quite an attraction as it featured a complete automation package that includes a Fanuc robot for loading and unloading, and also transporting workpieces to a gauging device and a cleaning station of Hydromat's own design.

Developed around flexible machining principles, each ICON 6-250 is equipped with four (4) machining stations with simultaneous vertical and horizontal axis capabilities and two (2) dedicated loading/unloading stations. Multi-station transfer technology enables simultaneous machining on all four stations, making the machine ideal for medium to high production of complex work pieces requiring multiple operations.

Another ICON Technologies machine featured was the ICON 6-150, a versatile Mill/Turn center that has a six position pallet transfer system to four machining modules for fast, ultra-precision machining. Each of these four modules is equipped with one (1) cartridge design 42,000 RPM motor spindle. These spindles are air-purged, liquid cooled and are permanently grease lubricated and therefore virtually maintenance free. Included with the machine are four (4) CNC Rotary Tables for indexing and turning of the workpieces.

Presented in public for the first time was the new ICON 8-150 Mill/Turn Center in the early stage of its build process. This version utilizes the same machining modules as the 6-150, but features six (6) machining units and eight (8) pallets for additional machining capacity and speed. Like all other ICON machines, the frame is manufactured as a sturdy, welded, steel construction.

“Only the fittest, leanest shops using the most advanced technologies will advance in this current business environment. This is why we create EPIC R/T Hydromat machines specifically for our customer's production needs,” stated Bruno Schmitter, Hydromat's President and CEO, “and this why we added the ICON Technologies division to our family of precision machining solutions. We are here to give our partners the right solution for each application.”

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Also on display were Hydromat's technical departments that make up their full service philosophy; Engineering, Quality Assurance, Customer Service, and Hydromat's Machine & Grind Shop. These teams consist of talented, dedicated individuals whose backgrounds run deep in the tradition of high-precision metalworking. These associates, combined with state-of-the-art machine tools, yield exceptional products and service for Hydromat customers.

Hydromat also proudly presented their Apprentice Program, a fine example of world class training in the metalworking arts. Steeped in the European tradition, this program delivers to their young associates the right combination of knowledge, experience, and hands-on training that is required for the unique needs of Hydromat Inc. for the future of their machine production and customer service.

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Sales Contact: Mr. Matthias Walter
Chief Sales Officer
Hydromat, Inc.
11600 Adie Road
St. Louis, MO 63043

Phone: 314.432.4644
Fax: 314.432.7552

For more information, visit our website: www.hydromat.com

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Caption; Hydromat Technician Ron Young (left) explains the EPIC R/T Trunnion machine to a group of Oktoberfest attendees.

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Caption; (left to right) Bruno Schmitter, Hydromat President & CEO, Ron Karaisz, President of KAR Enterprises, and Matthias Walter, Hydromat's Chief Sales Officer enjoy a brat, a beer, and some conversation in the Bavarian Style beer hall.



Caption; Hydromat's Oktoberfest themed lunch entrees are always a crowd pleaser.

HYDROMAT MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Kevin Shults: 314.810.3848 • kshults@hydromat.com • Doug Welker: 314.810.3989 • dwelker@hydromat.com
11600 Adie Road • Saint Louis, MO 63043 • p 314.432.4644 • f 314.692.9186 • www.hydromat.com

