

GEC Alsthom's Retrofit Campaign

Integration of the NUM CNCplus on a large capacity Wohlenberg lathe. The presence of a NUM 1060 panel/screen provides additional overall flexibility.



The Large Machines Company of GEC Alsthom in Rugby has undertaken a vast machine revamping campaign to improve the quality of work and reduce production costs. The skilled operators have always been able to preserve high precision on the huge machines used on the site, but it was becoming increasingly difficult to meet productivity requirements.

"When we saw the NUM CNCplus control at METCUT in 1994, we immediately realized it could advantageously stand in for our old GE 1050T CNC on most of our turning machines," said David Graham, Machining manager.

The Operator Is Back in Control

With its three operating modes: manual, assisted and CNC, the NUM CNCplus can be used by all the operators according to their abilities. Their work is made more interesting and they are glad to give up their role as button-pusher to take on more responsibility and more qualification. Ultimately, their flexibility will allow them to work on any of a several machines of the same type. In Rugby, a structural simplification is also expected: *"The ability of NUM CNCplus to generate the machining program directly on the machine will considerably alleviate the workload of our methods department,"* asserted David Graham.

With Num CNCplus, All Machines Are User-Friendly

The first machine to be retrofitted with a NUM CNCplus control was a Wohlenberg lathe with a 1.2 meter swing and a distance between centers of 7 meters, in use since 1969 for machining generator shafts.

The second one, a Skoda lathe with a capacity of 40 metric tons, is even more impressive. With its 2-meter swing and distance between centers of 10 meters, it is the first large machine so far to adopt a teach-in CNC.

A-tec Systems Ltd., an engineering firm of Wigan, was responsible for commissioning operations.

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