

■ **Ebalta** has expanded its production capacity with the opening of a plant at its headquarters in Rothenberg. Building on a successful trading year, the German supplier of mould and tool making materials said that the expansion was in line with strategic plans for further growth. The 2,000m² production facility will be dedicated to the manufacture of the group's eblock materials and brings the company's overall manufacturing capacity to seven production plants.

www.ebalta.co.uk

■ **An online** course that provides machine tool training has been launched by Mori Seiki. The course uses interactive graphics to provide knowledge and technical skills for all of the group's major tooling machines. According to Mori Seiki, training is available in eight languages and has been targeted at company employees who wish to gain basic technical knowledge of the group's machines.

www.moriseiki.com

■ **Mazak** has announced that it has entered into a partnership with Ken Okuyama Design to improve the ergonomics, design and ease of operation of the company's machine tools. Famous for the design of sports cars such as the Ferrari Enzo, founder of the group Kiyoyuki Okuyama has been brought in to help Mazak increase the differentiation of its machine tool products from those of its competitors.

www.mazak.com

■ **An electronic** servo motor and threading computer has been added to Hardinge's HLV Toolroom Lathe. As a replacement to the conventional mechanical gearbox, the company claims that the upgrade provides four times more power, 50 per cent more torque and significantly increases threading range. In addition, multiple start threads (up to four) can be machined and the threading system is now said to be easier to use with fewer moving parts.

www.hardinge.com

■ **Schuler** has reported that it has installed the first hydraulic production press at Ford's Saarlouis facility. With a force of 2,250 metric tons, the press is intended to be used for the production of large, high-strength vehicle parts, such as roofs, side walls and floor panels. According to Ford, this will reduce the need to bring in external suppliers. The press is also claimed to increase the production capacity of its European facilities.

www.schulergroup.com

■ **Voortman** has revealed that it has increased the speed of its V600 drilling system by 300 per cent. Voortman claims that the replacement of frequency-controlled motors with servomotors and servodrives has enabled the company to increase efficiency by using the system with carbide-tipped drills. The latest V600 design is also fitted with an automatic tool change with capacity for five drills.

www.voortman.net