Increasing machining capacity for aluminium structural components

FINOBA, a reliable partner in the lightweight automotive construction chain that links foundries and OEMs, is undertaking further expansion this year at its centre of excellence for machining aluminium structural components and chassis parts. As a result of the strong increase in market demand, the specialist for the machining of light metal components has invested more than 13 million euros since 2009 in expanding its capacity, in particular for high-volume manufacturing. "The closed process chain that we have established is unique on this scale in Germany and the capacity is designed to enable us to process high volumes," says the company's owner,



Coordinate-measuring machine for components up to 2,400 mm long



Automated assembly of wire thread inserts at the Baunatal plant

Dipl.-Ing. Guido Barde, explaining these investments, which are as bold as they are far-sighted.



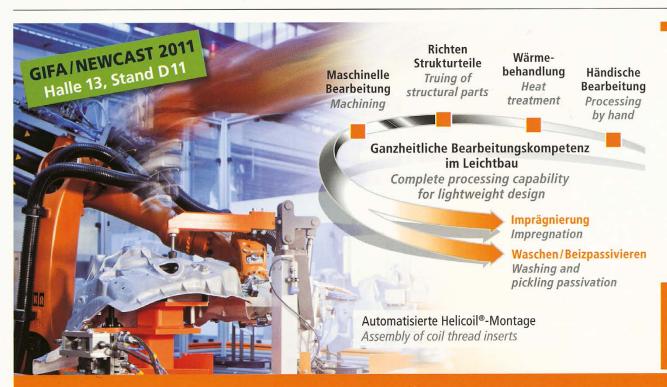
Aluminium suspension-strut supports in FINOBA's heat treatment plant

Die-cast aluminium structural components and chassis parts used in carmaking require considerable finishing effort. This is precisely where FINOBA has specialised and it offers machining and treatment of light metal parts and assemblies from a single source for the whole process chain. With its coherent concept, the company won a large order for the machining and treatment of aluminium suspension-strut supports for the Audi A6 back in 2008. "The contract is initially for seven years," confirms Guido Barde. Shipments began in 2010 and by 2012 it is planned to produce 2200 parts a day, enough for 1100 vehicles. Further increases in demand from the

car industry have led to FINOBA now almost trebling the space available for production and logistics at its Baunatal plant. This investment means that in future all process steps involving aluminium structural components and chassis parts will be concentrated in Baunatal.

FINOBA always adapts the steps in the machining process and the quality management system to meet specific customer requirements. For example, a Zeiss coordinate-measuring machine can be used for components up to 2,400 mm long. Such computer-aided inspection based on the 3D dataset of the design require-

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