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Press release

Good, better, Q

With its newly developed “Q” plasma cutting unit, the focus at Kjellberg is on Industry 4.0

As part of the anniversary of “60 years of plasma”, German system manufacturer Kjellberg Finsterwalde presented its latest plasma cutting unit – the “Q” – to an audience of industry specialists at an impressive opening ceremony held on 11 September 2019.

“Today, after years of in-house research and development, you will get to know our new family member.” With these words, Dr. Michael Schnick, Managing Director of Teknoholt GmbH, introduced the next generation of plasma cutting units to the many international business partners in attendance. Guests from the world of politics who also accepted the invitation included Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy of the State of Brandenburg Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg Steinbach, Elbe-Elster District Administrator Christian Heinrich-Jaschinski and Mayor of Finsterwalde Jörg Gampe. After a 60-year history of plasma at Kjellberg, the completely new “Q” series, whose hallmarks are captured in the slogans “**Q**uintessence of plasma technology”, “**Q**uick and **q**uiet plasma cutting”, “**Q**ualified for Industry 4.0” and “**Q**uality made in Germany”, will now lead the way forward.

The “Q” plasma cutting unit is based on an entirely new approach to design, which means that as a pure inverter power source in a modular system, it can produce a subsequent increase in cutting current intensity, enabling effective adaptation to changing production conditions with little effort. The cutting process is controlled digitally, with real-time communication between all components. At the same time, a wide range of sensors are used to monitor process and status indicators, which in turn can be analysed and evaluated by integrated microprocessors. From now on, the browser-based “Q-Desk” user interface, developed in-house, will provide all information including for example FAQs or video tutorials in a user-friendly format on smartphones, tablets or desktop PCs. In addition to displaying up-to-date system information, this also allows targeted forecasting and preventive recommendations for action. With a VPN connection and the approval of the user, various data can be transferred securely to service partners, which means that permanent status monitoring of components and the cutting process are now part of this sophisticated technology.

The new Industry 4.0-capable “Q” series allows precision plasma cutting at an exceptional level with the requirements of digitised production. This means that in the future, machines and systems will be able to communicate with each other interoperably in a smart factory across all stages of the value chain. Potential synergies within the production process will be improved, and both the competitiveness and innovative capacity of industrial SMEs will be strengthened in the long term.

Background

Since its foundation in 1922, the hallmarks of Kjellberg Finsterwalde have been tradition and innovation in metalworking. With its vision of improving productivity for users, Kjellberg has since expanded its portfolio continuously. Today, the company offers solutions for welding, plasma and laser cutting, wear protection and the manufacture of customer-specific special-purpose machines and tools for the processing of materials. As a technology provider with its own research company, the Kjellberg group faces the new challenges of the fourth industrial revolution being brought about by digitisation. Its response is to make the flexibility of processes within the company more efficient and to increase added value for customers. Not least among the issues this involves is the development of networked, adaptable and user-friendly products with our established partners for the intelligent production of tomorrow.

Image information



Image 1: Dr. Michael Schnick, Managing Director of Teknoholt GmbH, at the presentation of the completely new “Q” plasma cutting unit.



Image 2: Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy of the State of Brandenburg Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg Steinbach (centre) and Member of the State Parliament Barbara Hackenschmidt (right) had the cutting process with the “Q” explained to them and were shown the machined metal.



Image 3: The “Plasma 4.0 Competence Centre”, also newly established, was met with great interest among guests from around the world. Not only the live demonstrations of the “Q” system, but in particular the testing of the Q-Desk on mobile devices, were an absolute highlight of the day.

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