

Innovations in work centres and cutting tables



In the field of work centres and cutting tables for the glass and stone market sectors, leading Italian manufacturer Intermac is continuously on the lookout for improvements and up-dates to its already wide range of products. The NGA show in Miami, Florida, United States, saw the introduction of the company's new line of NC working centres and new CNC cutting tables, which, as the company says, really impressed the many visitors to Intermac's stand.

Valerie Anne Scott

From left to right: Roberto Bergamini, Sales Manager, Roberto Nori, Sales and Marketing Director, and Paolo Bracceschi, General Manager, at Intermac's stand during the NGA show in Miami in March



STARTING POINT AND FUTURE GOALS

This year's NGA show, held from 14 to 16 March, in Miami, Florida, United States, saw the presentation of two new NC machines by the Italian firm Intermac Spa. The NGA show has always been considered as the most important exhibition in the US for the world of glass professionals and a starting point from which companies can widen their horizons as far as worldwide sales and commerce in general are concerned.

Intermac is part of the *Biesse* corporation, and was founded in 1987, in the area of Pesaro, in central Italy. Today the company occupies an area of over 8,000 sq.m., and employs 250 people. Other than supplying machinery for the working of glass, the company also proposes integrative solutions for flat glass machining. At the beginning of this year, Intermac's parent company Biesse announced that it was nearing its listing on the Milan Stock Exchange, with an operation involving about 35 per cent of Biesse capital, and due to take place in the first half of this year. This listing operation will allow the corporation and its group companies to become more and more competitive on the international market.

Intermac's Slant 1600 numerically controlled work centre

WORK CENTRES

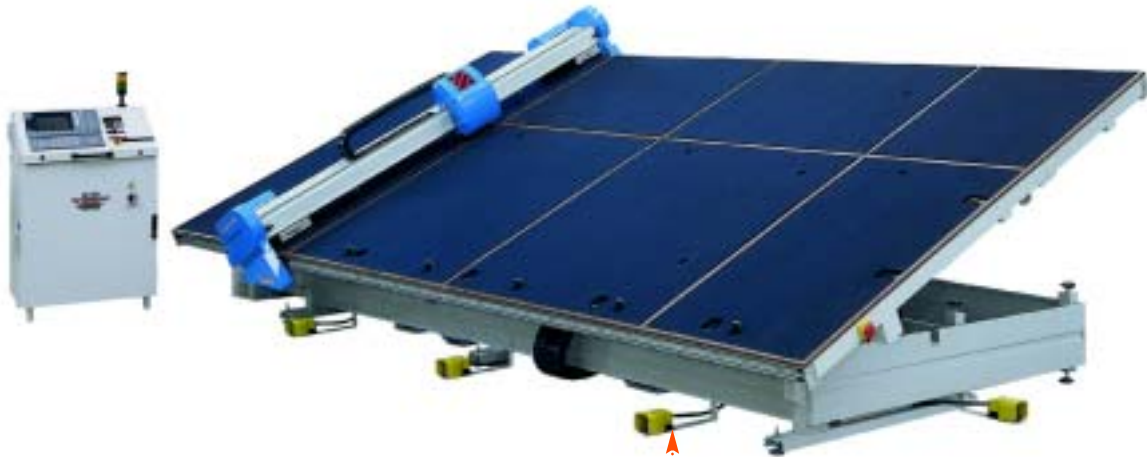
Intermac's completely new numerically controlled work centre, *Slant 1600*, is equipped with an automatic tool change for universal grinding, bevelling and polishing of glass and mirrors. Glass thicknesses from 3 to 12 mm can be processed, without the need of any template, as also glass sheets and mirrors as thin as 3 mm. These materials normally require supporting jigs to avoid bending, which is a major cause for poor quality bevels. According to Intermac, with its *Slant 1600* and its fully automatic machining system, the bevel quality is total and constant, even on very complicated work-pieces. The diameter of the work-piece can vary from a minimum of 320 mm to a maximum of 1,600 mm, while specific devices are available on request, making the processing of even smaller pieces possible.

Intermac says that this machine can perform bevels at 45°, which offers the operator the possibility to machine pieces with a high design content with a totally repeatable quality. The pieces can also be polished, since the machine features a cerium oxide system.

The whole cycle is carried out automatically, thanks to the machine's rotating tool holder magazine, which allows automatic tool change of

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138



**Intermac's
Fox Shape
cutting
machine**

up to eight different wheels. Both the tool holder magazine latter and the automatic positioning of reference stops are controlled by the NC system.

The company claims that the exclusive architecture of the machine and its inclined working table provide gravity removal of water and waste, thus always ensuring the best working conditions.

Intermac is sure that its Slant 1600 delivers the performances needed nowadays to be on the

cutting edge of innovation and product quality, and the interest shown by visitors to the company's stand at the Miami NGA show also proved what a great impact this revolutionary machine is expected to have on the US market.

CNC CUTTING TABLES

Fox Shape, the company's CNC table for straight and shaped cutting of glass sheets, which was also exhibited at the NGA show, is just another of the many options available today in the Intermac range of cutting tables. This range includes machines dedicated to both monolithic and laminated glass sheets of either regular or jumbo sizes.

The impressive speed of up to 150 m per minute shown by of the machine on demo-provided full proof of its dramatic production capabilities of straight and shaped cutting programmes. The Fox machines are equipped with high power brushless motors, numeric control with cutting schemes, optimizing software and automatic tool change systems with six-position tool magazines.

Intermac says that the Fox range is available in two versions, with working tables of 3,760 x 2,760 mm or 6,100 x 3,300 mm. Fox 2500 C completes this range cuith a CNC table for the open shaped and straight cutting of thick sheets of glass, and integrated cutting lines equipped with handling equipment. ■

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