

Scotchman donates milling machine to school

by Del Bartels

In March of last year, Scotchman Industries, Inc., donated two desktop Haas Automation, Inc., program learning modules to Philip High School.

Now, Scotchman has donated a complete HAAS vertical milling machine.

The computer numerically controlled (CNC) machine is used by programmers to input highly detailed instructions into a computer system that then guides robotic arms and tools to perform precision metal machining jobs. Skilled CNC programmers can greatly improve the efficiency of production and the quality of finished products.

“What we’ve done with the CNC machines that Scotchman has donated! We train kids on that. But now we can actually see the results,” exclaimed PHS agriculture instructor Doug Hauk. “Before, they could punch in numbers and stuff, and now they can see a machine actually do what they programmed.”

The two program learning modules will still be used. The information and instructions put into them by a student can be transferred by way of something similar to a flash drive to the module on the vertical milling machine. Thus, one robotic tooling machine does the chores written by students using, in essence, three programming modules.

According to Kroetch, when the two learning programs were donated, the two real-life units are meant to give students enough experience to determine if this type of work might be a career they may want to pursue. There is a shortage of machinists in the industry. And, Scotchman itself uses many such machines.



Philip High School instructor Doug Hauk, left, listens to Jerry Kroetch telling of the unloading experience of the new, larger machine delivered to Scotchman industries. The smaller, older machine (only 8,000 pounds) in the background was being unloaded into the agriculture building for high school students to use in designing and creating metal pieces.

Now the turning, drilling, punching, lathing and tooling end result of designing a metal piece can be done in real life. It can be held in a student’s hand.

Hauk admitted, “It’s kind of a high learning curve, for me along with the kids.

“The key is the interest of the kids. We are hoping it will tie in with Tom Parquet’s computer assisted drafting (CAD) class and my advanced welding class. Kids can work at their own levels and own pace. I know it will cross over and benefit both classes; double hands-on,” said Hauk. “It was phenomenal for Scotchman to donate this for the kids to work on.”

Jerry Kroetch, president of Scotchman Industries, Inc., has offered to set up a schedule for his top employees to come to the school to help teach and train the students on the machine.

“We’ll use those technicians every bit we can,” said Hauk. “It’s phenomenal what Scotchman does for us, but, they can’t continually pull guys off of their line. They still have to run a business. Hopefully, this benefits Scotchman down the road; opens up another career path for students, who we then can open up to Scotchman.”

Kroetch said that a new machine similar in size and capability as this one ranges around \$65,000. This 20-year-old machine was used virtually every day, and still works perfectly, but bigger, more powerful models are needed by Scotchman Industries.

Though he could have gotten around \$7,500 for it as a trade-in, Kroetch chose to give the machine for use in the agriculture and CAD classes of Philip High School.

“We hope the school gets value out of it,” said Kroetch.

Scotchman increases capability



Scotchman Industries, Inc., has brought in another high-capacity tooling machine to add to its many other machine-creating machines. Shown is Bill Kelly from Grossenburg Implement driving a Grossenburg

forklift to unload the new 18,000 pound computer numerically controlled (CNC) machine. This one is from the Mazak corporation. It is far larger and far more powerful than the one it replaces.

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