/ USER STORY // FEBRUARY

Katthöfer expands its sharpening services with Loroch

Katthöfer Cutting Tools is an expert in the repair of circular metal cutting saws. The company has recently expanded its services for carbide-tipped thin cutting circular saws used for high-speed cutting (HSC). o process a variety of individual saw teeth quickly and precisely, Katthöfer uses sharpening technology from Loroch, a subsidiary of the VOLLMER Group. Twelve Loroch machines are currently in use at Katthöfer, including the three-year-old fully automated KSC 710-T Service Center, another of which has just been ordered.

Katthöfer Cutting Tools is based in Selm, a town with a population of 25,000 located on the eastern edge of the Ruhr district, Germany. The sharpening service was founded in 1995 and has been managed by the second generation of the family, Daniel Katthöfer since 2012. Most of Katthöfer's hundred or so customers are metalworking companies ranging from small metalworking shops to globally active profile and pipe manufacturers, many of which have several thousand staff.

HSC machining is increasing in the metalworking industry
To ensure maximum efficiency for the saw blade, Katthöfer pays close attention to every element of the machining process. Only the ideal combination of saw blade type, tooth pitch, sawing parameters, machinery, cooling, lubrication and material clamping guarantees optimal cutting performance, even with HSC.

"With solid material, profiles or pipes, cutting times can be significantly reduced by HSC processing with carbide-tipped circular saws, since the cutting speed is up to four times higher than with HSS (High Speed Steel) saws", explains Managing Director Daniel Katthöfer. "Thin cutting circular sawscreate lower passive forces on individual teeth, which extends the service life and improves cutting precision. One carbide-tipped circular saw can replace up to ten HSS saws in a mass cutting application. In addition, some materials cannot be cut with HSS – only with carbide-tipped saws and with a tensile strength of more than 900 Newton metres, so we recommend carbide tipped saw blades to our customers".

HW circular saws for lighter and harder materials

Thin cutting technology offers the advantages of low power consumption and high cutting speed, as well as reduced metal waste. At Katthöfer, repair work has shifted from HSS circular saws to carbide tipped thin cutting circular saws with either carbide or cermet tips. Katthöfer currently processes around 1000 HSS and up to 150 carbide-tipped circular saw blades per week, and the company expects the carbide-tipped share to triple over the next few years. The growing demand for carbide-tipped circular saws is partly driven by the automotive industry and tube and profile manufacturers that are processing ever lighter and harder materials due to weight reductions. These usually require higher sawing performance than conventional HSS saws.

Resharpen disposable circular saws efficiently

Katthöfer is the leading German provider of sharpening services for resharpening "disposable" circular saws. These are mainly used in fully automatic sawing systems, such as those manufactured by machine builder Rattunde, among others. Rattunde machines are used by a wide range of companies, including tube and profile manufacturers, steelworks, automotive suppliers, furniture and bicycle manufacturers.

"We can resharpen disposable carbide-tipped circular saws, which would otherwise need to be disposed of, giving them a second life", reveals Daniel Katthöfer. "We can achieve around 90 per cent of the sawing performance offered by a new blade, for approximately half the purchase cost. This reduces our customers' operating costs, offers improved environmental protection and sustainability".

Loroch machines operate around the clock

Katthöfer also performs the 15 work steps involved in repairing an carbide-tipped circular saw, supported by long-standing partners offering services including saw blade de-coating and re-coating. Katthöfer performs the main grinding operation at its production facilities in Selm, with ten highly qualified employees and twelve sharpening machines supplied by Loroch GmbH. Loroch has been supporting Katthöfer for over 20 years, and is a subsidiary of the global VOLLMER Group, which has its headquarters in Biberach an der Riss, Germany. The fully automated Loroch KSC 710-T Service Center has been the technological heart of production for around three years. The T stands for touchscreen, which is used to simply and intuitively operate the KSC 710-T. In addition to sharpening, the machine can also perform new toothing and chamfering as well as grinding in chip breaker grooves. It can process

carbide-tipped circular saws with different tooth geometries in a single clamping operation. The Service Center can be equipped with up to 80 circular saw blades, which enables unmanned, round-the-clock machining, all with consistent grinding quality and low costs.

"Katthöfer offers sharpening services built on in-depth expertise to meet specific metal cutting requirements", explains Dr Roland Loroch, CEO of Loroch GmbH. "Our fully automated machines form the technological basis for the circular saw sharpening process, and we are proud to report that Katthöfer recently ordered a new KSC 710-T, to be delivered by mid-2022".

(approx. 5000 characters)

Press images

Caption: Daniel Katthöfer, Managing Director of Katthöfer Cutting Tools since 2012, uses the fully automated Loroch KSC 710-T Service Center for unmanned, round-the-clock sharpening of circular saws.

Caption: A total of twelve Loroch sharpening machines are in operation at Katthöfer Cutting Tools in Selm, and Managing Director Daniel Katthöfer recently ordered another KSC 710-T Service Center.

Caption: Katthöfer Cutting Tools can use the fully automated Loroch KSC 710-T Service Center to efficiently machine specific tooth geometries of HW circular saws and also to resharpen "disposable" circular saws to give them a second life.

About the VOLLMER Group
With its comprehensive range of machinery, the VOLLMER Group – which has sites in Germany, Austria, Great Britain, France, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the USA, Brazil, Japan, China, South Korea, India and Russia – enjoys global success as a tool machining specialist in terms of both production and service. The leading technology manufacturer's range of products includes the most advanced grinding, eroding, laser cutting and machining tools for rotary tools and circular saws in the woodworking and metalworking industries, as well as for metal-cutting band saws. In offering this, VOLLMER draws heavily on the company's long-standing expertise and its strengths: Local contacts for efficient communication channels, quick decisions and rapid action by a family-run company. The VOLLMER Group currently employs approximately 800 workers worldwide, with around 580 of these at the headquarters in Biberach alone, including more than 75 trainees. The company invests around eight to ten per cent of its turnover in the research and development of new technologies and products. As a provider of technology and services, the VOLLMER Group is a reliable partner to its customers.

Further information and relevant images are available at:
https://www.vollmer-group.com/en-uk/company/press/press-releases.html

Find us on LinkedIn and Facebook as well:
www.linkedin.com/company/vollmer-werke
www.facebook.com/vollmergroup

Contacts for journalists
VOLLMER WERKE Maschinenfabrik GmbH
Ingo Wolf
Head of Marketing Services
Tel.: +49 (0) 7351 571 277
E-mail: i.wolf@vollmer-group.com

Carmen Fink
Marketing Services
Tel.: +49 (0) 7351 571 754
E-mail: c.fink@vollmer-group.com