

plasma at the SCHWEISSEN & SCHNEIDEN 09:

**Contact-free and non-destructive modular inspection systems for quality-assured production reduce costs by up to 30 percent.**

Essen, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009/ **Numerous production steps and quality inspections are useful in the manufacture of high quality pipes. From the delivery of the raw material through to the finished product, inspection takes place directly in the production process. This saves up to 30 percent of the costs. The quality inspection of complex applications such as gap dimension measurement, position control, process monitoring as well as weld seam measurement in production is the central focus at this year's Schweißen & Schneiden in Essen. Plasma presents a complete overview of automatic quality assurance systems for the industrial production chain.**

“Solutions for the contact-free and non-destructive automatic quality assurance in the field of joint technology were at the start of our company history. In this field we have achieved international market leadership, which we have also been able to maintain over the years. Precisely with the help of our complete portfolio presented here in Essen, this is perfectly apparent,” rejoiced Arnold Braunsteiner, CEO of plasma Industrietechnik. In the meantime, plasma develops solutions for the quality inspection of a variety of production processes. Prestigious companies such as Audi, BMW, Daimler, PSA, Suzuki, Volvo or the steel manufacturers Corus as well as Oxytechnik/Thyssen and the railway manufacturer Tokyu Car put their faith in plasma.

#### **Quality control for most different tasks**

The high quality standards required and the volumes demand fully automatic solutions in the field of process monitoring and quality assurance. The visual inspections carried out by humans are cost-intensive and – measured against current quality demands - not reliable enough. Sensor- and camera-based inspection methods provide solutions for a variety of technical challenges in the preweld- as well as inline- and postweld area. These range from the visualization of the processes and the detection of defects through to the traceability of components and production steps. For instance, with modern systems cracks and damage, that could occur during the welding process, are already detected early.

“The high quality of the products on the market as well as the possibilities for cost savings of up to 30 percent make our solutions attractive for all companies, even in times of crisis“, stated Daniel Nufer, VP Sales & Marketing of the internationally active company plasma with headquarters in Austria, branch in Germany and sales partners in a wide variety of regions throughout the world.

#### **From sheet metal to pipe in top quality**

At the SCHWEISSEN & SCHNEIDEN in Essen, the complete portfolio will be demonstrated graphically with the help of the production of pipes. „Automatic high-tech quality inspection from the delivery of the raw material through to the finished product. That is our claim“, declared Thomas Grünberger, CTO of plasma. This way, for example circuit boards as well as the bending process can be inspected automatically with special solutions. Complex welding applications are controlled „inline“ using sensor-based solutions. In the postweld sector, the welded seam is inspected for defects such as pores or seam narrowing, welding splashes etc. using camera-based solutions. If the pipe is ultimately also coated, another solution automatically detects surface defects.

### The „most innovative solutions“ from the plasma portfolio

From the range of quality assurance solutions – just in the field of joint technology – the following solutions must be highlighted due to the high level of innovation. In combination with tailored software, these are integrated into the production process:

**plasma processobserver:** Process monitoring during welding, cutting and laser drilling. In service for the automatic quality inspection in numerous automobile production plants throughout the world, for instance at Daimler, Audi or PSA as well as in other branches.

**plasma 3D observer:** Image processing system for robot workspaces. In service for the 3D laser measurement for robot workspaces of several cubic meters, for example at ABB Austria, which employs 1,300 staff in the areas of power transmission, power distribution, automation and building services engineering.

**plasma profileobserver:** Geometry measurement of weld and solder seams. In service for the automatic quality inspection for the monitoring of weld and solder seams as well as joint gap measurement in numerous automobile production plants throughout the world, for instance at Magna and PSA as well as in other branches.

### plasma Industrietechnik GmbH

plasma is an innovative, technology organization for automated quality assurance and control systems in the manufacturing industry operating worldwide. Founded in 2003, plasma is the leader in the real-time quality control for welding processes. The extensive portfolio in the field of quality assurance includes laser power measurement, control of welding processes, monitoring of weld seams, geometric forms and surfaces, tailored solutions in the field of industrial image processing, analysis software as well as extensive service offers. The team of experts accompanies its customers from the definition of the inspection task through to the realization of the inspection system. Almost all vehicles produced in Europe, from Audi to VW, but also white goods and many other industrial products, pass through the innovative inspection systems of plasma during production. Internationally, prestigious customers from ABB and Hettich to Magna and numerous automobile manufacturers such as Audi, BMW, Daimler, PSA, Suzuki, Volvo or the Dutch steel manufacturer Corus trust the quality and quality assurance of plasma. In 2008, the 20-man organization with headquarters in Vienna, generated a turnover of EURO 1.8M. In 2008 the new plasma office opened in Germany and the plasma sales partners in Japan, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg also began their activities.

Product photos, e.g. plasma process**observer**, plasma 3D **observer**, plasma profile**observer** can be downloaded at [www.plasma.eu](http://www.plasma.eu) in the sector Press & Events/Current Press Texts

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