

AUTOMOTIVE ORDERS PROMPT FURTHER INVESTMENT IN “RELIABLE, COSTEFFECTIVE” HYUNDAI-WIA TURNING CENTRES



Andy Marks has no interest in buying “high-priced” turning machines simply for the sake of a ‘name’: he’d rather spend more wisely but still obtain machines that are “durable, reliable and fit for purpose”. That’s why, as joint managing director of Metrol Springs, he has recently increased the company’s tally of Hyundai-Wia CNC lathes.

These, he says, do everything that more expensive counterparts do, “but are much more cost-effective”.

Increasing demand for high-accuracy machined components for predominantly automotive clients has prompted Metrol Springs’ latest investment tranche, bringing its tally of Hyundai-Wia CNC turning machines to five.

The Northampton-based specialist designer and manufacturer of Nitro-Springs (industrial gas struts, gas springs and gas spring systems) has recently installed a Hyundai-Wia L300LMSA CNC lathe with C axis, sub-spindle and driven tooling, and a L250SY CNC lathe with sub-spindle and Y axis to complement three existing Hyundai-Wia turning machines, the first of which was installed five years ago.

“Continual growth since our establishment in 1984 has led to continued investment in machines and employees,” says Mr Marks. “This has included a move in December 2014 to a new, larger site – which has given us the room for additional machines to meet our ever-rising order book. “

Mr Marks says the company needed the new machines quickly and, as was the case with its previous Hyundai-Wia purchases from T W Ward CNC Machinery (Ward CNC), the exclusive distributor for the Korean machine manufacturer, they were available from stock.

"We did look at alternative brands but have found our existing Hyundai-Wia models very durable, reliable and fit-for-purpose. With bar feeds, conveyor unloading and tool monitoring they are often left to run unattended round the clock - plus our operators are, of course, very familiar with how they work. Importantly, too, Ward CNC's service is excellent."

With bar capacities of up to 90 mm (main spindle) and 65 mm (sub-spindle), the Hyundai-Wia L300LMSA has a 750 mm swing over the bed and maximum turning diameters and lengths of 410 mm and 1,250 mm, respectively.

Spindle speed is 3,500 revs/min from the 22/18.5 kW motor, while the sub-spindle motor is rated at 11/7.5 kW and the driven tools motor at 5.5/3.7 kW for 4,000 revs/min. C axis indexing is in 0.001deg increments and there is a 12-station tool turret.

The L250SY CNC lathe has a bar capacity of 76 mm on the main spindle and 45 mm on the sub-spindle, and its swing over the bed is 620 mm while maximum turning diameters and lengths are 310 mm and 620 mm, respectively.

Spindle speed is 3,500 revs/min on the main spindle and 6,000 revs/min on the sub-spindle. Utilising a powerful 22/18.5 kW motor on the main spindle, the sub-spindle motor is rated at 7.5/5.5 kW and the driven tools motor at 5.5 kW for 4,000 revs/min. C axis indexing is in 0.001deg increments and there is a 12-station tool turret.

The new duo were set straight to work by Metrol Springs on a variety of components, including steel housings and pistons being machined from a range of steels (carbonised, mild and tool) in varying batch sizes to suit customer demand from automotive-based clients mainly in the Far East.

"Like our other Hyundai-Wia machines, the new models are very 'autonomous' units that can be set up then left to run unattended and worry-free," concludes Mr Marks.

"In addition to the all the technology that is available on the machines for the unmanned machining of even the most complex features - including the use of live tools, C and Y axes and sub-spindles - as a total safeguard we also have all of our machines under 24-hour CCTV so that any problems can be quickly identified and resolved."

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E sales@hillaryinc.com