

INFOMATE

Introduction

This is the third issue of our newsletter. This newsletter will be used to send product and information updates to our customers on a regular basis.

Eastec



MACHINEMATE INC had a booth at the recent Eastec 2001 Advanced Productivity Exposition in Massachusetts (from May 22 to 24). The booth was well attended despite the very heavy rains on all three days of the show.

In our booth, we demonstrated our control with our 5-axis Reickhoff machine. We also hosted software from several different partners. The machine's control demonstrated Weber Systems' Synergy CAM software and Manufacturing Science Technology's (MST) Dynamic Feed Control.

Synergy is capable of solid modeling and 5-axis programming; all of the part programs run on the machine were generated by Synergy during the show. Weber also recently released a conversational CAD programming software package for the **MACHINEMATE**. Bill and Tim from Weber helped us (Nyles, Pete and Dave) in our booth.



Dynamic Feed Control is process optimization software; it monitors the operator's management of the part cutting and that optimization can be played back on subsequent part runs to take advantage of the operator's optimization. MST also had a booth at Eastec in the same building.



Our booth also had a standalone simulator (running either SERCOS or analog axes) that hosted the Multi-DNC software from Spectrum, part of e-Manufacturing Networks Inc. Multi-DNC software provides shop floor CNC management, including remote machine monitoring and production reports. The network card in this simulator was connected via a high-speed wireless network to the server in the e-Manufacturing Networks booth located a few aisles away, also in building #6.

The products developed by MST and Spectrum

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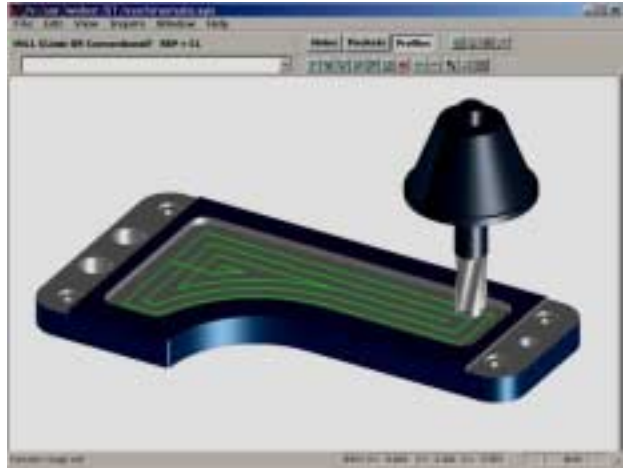
demonstrate how the convenient DDE access to the **MACHINEMATE** allows many add-on software capabilities for special requirements.

We held a press conference in our booth during the show, to relate the recent developments with **MACHINEMATE**. These developments include the continuing business relationships with several OEMs in Taiwan and the third-party software products available here in the USA for **MACHINEMATE** (briefly described above). As a result of this press conference, there will be a number of articles in trade publications in the upcoming months.

New Products

Conversational Synergy

The Synergy conversational shop floor part programming software for **MACHINEMATE** is now available. The CAM software was developed jointly with our partner Weber Systems. The specialized interface allows geometry to be described quickly and efficiently. After describing the geometry, the **MACHINEMATE** part program is easily generated. The software has two versions, either for a mill or a lathe. The prices for this software on new **MACHINEMATE** CNC shipments are: for MM1 and MM3 lathes: \$325 list; for mills: \$350 list; for MM5 and MM7 lathes: \$475, for mills: \$500.



This software is obtained from **MACHINEMATE** INC.

MTBP



The **MACHINEMATE** MTBP (machine tool builder's panel) is now available for shipment at the list price of \$695. This panel includes the e-stop pushbutton (push in to lock, twist out to release), the feed and speed override switches, the cycle start and stop pushbuttons, the machine start pushbutton, the jog + and – pushbuttons and six general-purpose pushbuttons. All of the pushbuttons except the e-stop can be illuminated. The MTBP comes with a molded cable (50-pin D-shell on both ends). The MTBP is pictured above (both front and back views). The width of the MTBP is identical to that of the **MACHINEMATE** control to simplify the layout of an operator's station.



MACHINEMATE INC has prepared a PLC application template that includes the processing of all the MTBP inputs and outputs. It is available for download from our web site. Please contact us if you wish to get a copy via email.

When using the **MACHINE**MATE SERCOS interface, the included 2-meter cable is pin-compatible for an easy installation. By connecting the cable from the MTBP to the SERCOS control's IO connector and loading the PLC project for the MTBP I/O (from MachineMate Inc), it takes just a few moments for the control to be running with the MTBP.

For analog systems, a breakout box can be obtained from **MACHINE**MATE (several vendors have one for the 50-pin D-shell) to convert the 50-pin connector to terminal strip connections.

Handheld Pendant

The handheld MPG is now available for shipment at the list price of \$695. This rugged pendant includes the handwheel, a six-position axis select switch, a three-position feed multiplier switch, two jog pushbuttons and the e-stop pushbutton (push in to lock, twist out to release). The dust and waterproof pendant comes with its 3-meter flexible cord that is terminated with a 26-pin round connector. One is pictured at left.



Four-Axis Interface Module, 4ENC4DA

The four-axis interface module is now available for analog servos. The module is part of the **MACHINE**MATE Modular IO family. The module is named 4ENC4DA since it contains 4 encoder input channels and 4 D/A output channels (plus 4 A/D input channels).

The 4ENC4DA module is shown at the right (with a 24I16O module in the left half of the module box). 10 LEDs indicate the module status. One 15-pin connector is provided for each encoder connection. There is one 9-pin connector for all four analog output connections and another 9-pin connector for all four analog input connections. A seventh connector has the relay contacts for Power On and Module Ready. Other connectors provide the power supply voltages.



This analog axis interface module enables the distribution of the analog servo connections. These modules can be spaced as needed in the cabinet and/or machine; typically the 4ENC4DA module would be located near the analog servo drives. All modules in the Modular IO family are connected in series via the high-speed IO bus to the **MACHINE**MATE control.

Internet connectivity (or not)

As many of you are aware, in May we had difficulty with the Internet connections to our web and email servers. Our DSL network provider went bankrupt. This provider, with offices in Texas and in the Midwest, was not a minor player in the industry. We know the names of a few area companies, and even a nearby hospital, which were also affected by this. Because the provider went bankrupt, we had no opportunity to redirect any of our web or email traffic.



In the future, if you ever have a problem with either our web site (www.machinemate.com) or any of our emails (e.g., info@machinemate.com), we have alternates available. Our alternate website is www.geocities.com/machinemate and our alternate email address is machinemate@yahoo.com. The web site does not have everything that our primary site has (because geocities does not support all the current web technologies) but it contains most of the content. We have had a few brief connection problems in the first few weeks but we hope to have those resolved as soon as possible. Please keep these alternates in mind in the event of future Internet difficulties.



In any case, we will always be available using that much older technology, the telephone.

Updated Manuals

We have completed updates to several of our manuals. The Start Up Manual, the PLC Interface Manual and the NC Programming Manual have been updated.

MachineMate customers have access to our documents on-line and can download them. If you are interested in these updated manuals, please contact us.

Updated Training Class Schedule

We have updated our schedule for our training classes; several have been shifted by a week. The current schedule is always available online from our web site (www.machinemate.com). The remaining classes in 2001:

- August 20 to 24
- October 15 to 19
- December 10 to 14

If you are interested in attending one of these classes (that are held every other month throughout the year), please contact us.



Conclusion

If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please tell us with a phone call or just respond with an email with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

If you received a printed issue and you wish to receive it via email in the future, please tell us that by sending an email to us at info@machinemate.com or call us at 920-907-0001.

Thank you,

The staff of **MACHINEMATE** INC



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