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# EMHART'S SYMPOSIUM FOR GLASSMAKERS IN NEUSS DURING GLASSTEC A SUCCESS

by Editorial staff

During the Glasstec trade exhibition held last October in Düsseldorf, a group of over 130 glass container manufacturing executives accepted an invitation from Emhart Glass to attend a half-day symposium held in the Emhart Glass GmbH facility in Neuss. The symposium, which was held on the afternoon of the 29th of October, included the possibility of touring the Neuss facility where many of Emhart's latest developments were on display.

The visiting group showed particular interest in an inspection loop where containers were being inspected by the new Veritas inspection equipment (both the Veritas iM multi-station servo-motion star-wheel inspection system and the Veritas iB multi-station camera-based inspection system were operating) and in an NIS section operating with the TNIS controller. Other equipment on display included the Emhart servo-electric invert and take-out mechanisms, the series 860 pusher mechanism and the T6000 forming process controller.

After the plant tour Dr. Heinz Houben, General Manager of the Neuss facility introduced the symposium speakers including Mr. Stefan Scheuch of Kraft Foods who presented an overview of packaging trends in the food industry, followed by Mr. Oliver Wiegand of Wiegand Glass who spoke about trends in the glass container industry. These two very interesting presentations were followed by an NIS machine forum chaired by Mr. William Grüninger, R&D Technical Director of Emhart

*Fig. 1 - The NIS machine section on display at Neuss.*

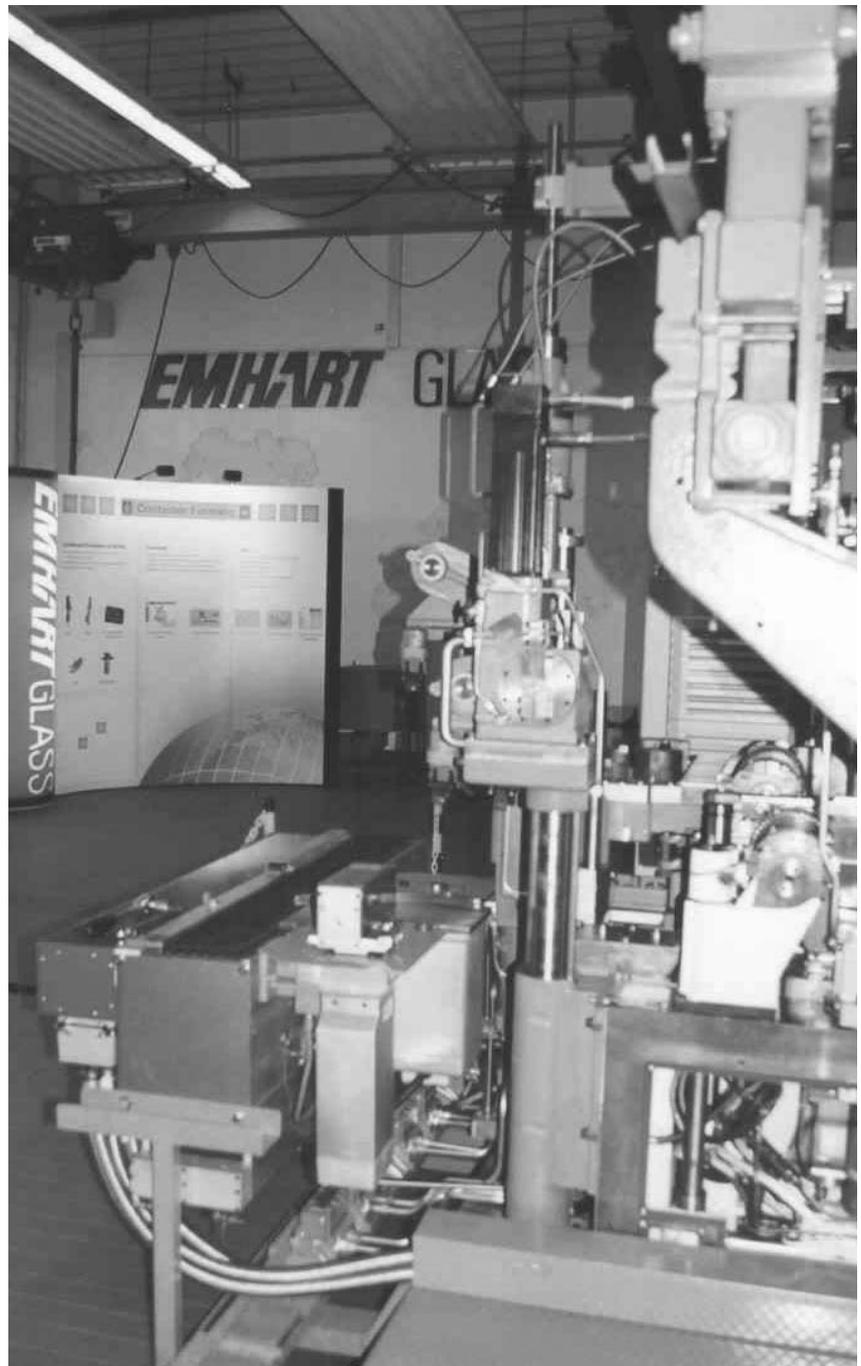


Fig.2 - Stefan Scheuch during his presentation.)



Fig. 3 - The NIS forum panel. From left - Dr.Houben - William Grüninger - Des Hewitt - Karl-Heinz Mann.



Glass SA. The NIS is the latest IS machine developed by Emhart and is unique in that it uses servo-electric mechanisms and it is a 10" triple gob machine with parallel mould open and close. The forum panel members were Mr. Karl-Heinz Mann, General

Manager Production at Wiegand Glass, and Mr. Des Hewitt, Production Manager of Rexam Glass Barnsley. Wiegand Glass was the first glass container plant to install the NIS machine back in 1999 and Mr. Mann shared his experiences in the

development of the machine in a production environment.

As normal with a new development, there were teething problems that have now been resolved and the Wiegand machine is running large sized ware, such as wines and mineral water bottles, at efficiencies in the low-to-mid ninety percent. They are fully using the capacity of the NIS machine to increase glass pull on this line thus effectively cutting production costs. Mr. Hewitt explained that when Rexam Glass decided to move into triple gob operation for the first time they looked for a machine that was as fully servo as possible to facilitate this important step. The NIS machine met their requirements and although to date they have only produced relatively small ware for the size of the machine they are also running in the mid nineties and have ordered a further NIS machine and will be producing large ware.

Both panel members also stressed the importance of two other features of this machine, namely the energy savings due to the drastically reduced consumption of compressed air and the improved production environment due to noise reduction. Wiegand Glass explained that job change times are the same as other TG machines they run but process changes are time consuming. Both Production Managers answered numerous questions from the audience in a very frank and open question time that followed their presentations. The general impression was that the new Emhart development is an important step for the glass container industry with the servo-mechanisms allowing improved process control with reduced energy usage and lower noise levels coupled with the possibility of increasing glass throughput due to the 10" TG gob feature thus allowing the industry to cut production costs.