

With the acquisition of an “Emco Powermill”, Südstahl is setting the course for the future. Among the decisive factors for choosing this universal milling machine were - besides maximally precise machining in a box-in-box construction - the machine’s high degree of flexibility and its suitability for various industrial sectors: It can be used for applications in both the aerospace industry and the general engineering sector.



## Südstahl to invest in a modern gantry milling machine

The most recent example of the investment policy of Südstahl, a family-run company based in Mertingen, is the replacement of an old processing and milling machine by a modern and flexible gantry milling machine by Emco. In the run-up to this significant acquisition, many criteria had to be analysed and the offer on the market had to be explored.

„It is quite challenging for us as a contract manufacturer to select the proper machine type, because we must be able to meet our customers’ requirements both now and in the years to come, without really knowing in which direction these requirements will develop. That is why a high degree of

flexibility plays a crucial role,“ explains Ulrich Käuferle. „High productivity at viable costs is what secures our competitiveness in the long run. If we go for the wrong concept, our customers will turn to other providers,“ the managing director of Südstahl clarifies. Another important goal was to offer the company’s employees a modern and future-oriented workplace. Following an elaborate selection process during which all expertise and knowledge available at the company had been taken into account, the decision was eventually made in favour of the “Powermill HPC-3” manufactured by Emco.



Milling of a machine component. The compact design of the gantry milling machine facilitates easy workpiece handling and straightforward set-up and clamping processes. The “Powermill” comes with numerous options and systems, such as, amongst other things, a milling head changer, a dual CNC platform and a tool changer with 60 pockets.

One of the reasons for choosing this cutting-edge product was the machine's box-in-box construction which guarantees maximum machining precision. Another was the "Powermill's" highly flexible and manifold range of application: It can be used for applications in both the aerospace industry and the general engineering sector. A universal milling machine, the "Powermill" has been designed for the efficient machining of bulky and heavy workpieces. This gantry milling machine is characterised by manifold areas of application and high dynamics. Its compact design facilitates easy workpiece handling and straightforward set-up and clamping processes. The "Powermill" comes with numerous options and systems, such as, amongst other things, a milling head changer, a dual CNC platform and a tool changer with 60 pockets. The maximum range of machining comprises 10,000 x 3,000 x 1,500 millimetres. Südstahl had the "Powermill" equipped with an additional device for pendulum machining. 'Thus, we are able to optimise the set-up times and to increase the machine's running time,' explains production manager Oliver Wetzenbacher. 'This replacement investment helped us set the course for the future,' comments technical director Peter Birkner on the new acquisition. 'The precision this machine works with allows us to fulfil the quality requirements of our customers. At the same time, the new milling machine turned out to be much more user-friendly, which is due to optimised set-up and adjustment processes,' summarises Peter Birkner.



## Company information

Südstahl GmbH & Co. KG is a modern, medium-sized company that has established itself as a specialist for steel machining and as a provider for the engineering, toolmaking and device construction industries. The company offers comprehensive machining and processing possibilities from a single source: thermal cutting of steel and aluminium (autogenous, plasma and laser technology), deburring, annealing, truing, sandblasting, edging and welding as well as machining with CNC-controlled installations. The company manufactures welded assemblies and machine components with unit weights of up to 20 tonnes, also with final coating. With the acquisition of Schwab Förder- und Lagertechnik (Oettingen) in 2020, the company expanded its range of products by storage systems. These include paternosters, roll-out racks, conveyor systems and cutting machines, which, as customised system solutions, can store products and goods in a space-saving manner. The company employs a staff of 130, 14 of whom are trainees, at its Mertingen and Aindling locations.



A heavy-duty truck delivered the gantry milling machine to Mertingen.

The high precision of the machine makes it possible for the company to fulfil its customers' quality requirements to an even greater extent (images: Südstahl, Werbefotografie Weiss).