

- ▶ PAGE 1: Company News
- ▶ Tech Corner
- ▶ Sales Bulletin
- ▶ PAGE 2: Coming Soon - Accuform Compact
- ▶ Trade Shows Past & Future
- ▶ AIM Europe News



Company News

Tech Corner

With the exciting and historic election season (finally) over, the holidays quickly coming upon us, and the start of another year just ahead, many of us will take some time to reflect on the year that was and what we hope for in the future. Not to steal from the theme of the presidential campaigns, but I can say that if I had to choose one word to describe the past year that word would be change, for me personally and for AIM. I joined AIM in February as the Accounting and Operations Manager. I have spent most of my career in mid-sized manufacturing companies, so I was cautiously optimistic about joining a relatively small company. I was pleased to find a group of people that are passionate about the company and committed to ensuring that AIM will be a successful venture for the long term. The past year has been a whirlwind of activity for me as I have become more involved in the business.

From a company perspective, it seems as if we are in a constant state of change. We had announced late in 2007 that we were converting over to SAP. We had completed the implementation during the first half of 2008 and we are now beginning to reap most of the benefits that an ERP system should provide. We expect that this new system will allow AIM to service our customers in a more effective and efficient manner. In addition, we have invested in expanding our engineering team in order to increase our capacity to provide customized solutions and to streamline our new product development process.

Perhaps the most significant change for AIM has been our commitment to becoming a Lean Enterprise. In the last half of 2008, we established our Lean Steering Committee and identified our Lean Champions. The team of Lean Champions spent a significant amount of time working on mapping out our current state and future state value streams. The team did a tremendous job in identifying many wastes in our business processes and how we can improve those processes not only to be more efficient but also to serve our customers better. We will have our first kaizen event during the month of November.

Finally, we would like to wish a safe and happy holiday season to you, our customers and valued business partners.

written by: Lee Fennell

Tips and Tricks: maximizing your production rate
Although faster is not always better, there are a couple of easy things you can do to get more parts off your machine every hour.

1. When possible, run the short side of your parts first
2. Set the speed of every line of your program instead of running the whole program or even sections, at a slower rate
3. Combine operations: i.e. Change your tool and feed while the Z-axis rotates
 - a. Please note the rate (pieces/hour) and program changes that were made in the examples below.

(1) Untitled_1

Step	Length	Spd	Angle	Spd	Flags	Radius
1			-90.00		Z	
2	8.500		-90.00		P1 T3	0.125
3			0.00		Z	
4	4.000		90.00		T4	0.125
5	1.000					
*						

(1) Untitled_1

Step	Length	Spd	Angle	Spd	Flags	Radius
1	3.500		-90.00		Z	
2			-90.00		P1 T3	0.125
3	4.000		0.00		Z T4	0.125
4			90.00			0.125
5	1.000					
*						

4. Set your return bender speed in the machine parameters to the smallest negative value possible. While still keeping the part from "whipping" as the bender prepares for the next move

Sales Bulletin

FANUC IR Vision

At CASMI 2008 in Rosemont, AIM exhibited the AFM 3D8-T with the increasingly popular FANUC robotic integration. Based on customer feedback, one of the most difficult parts of manufacturing wire forms is to separate them. Normally a box of some kind is below the machine where formed parts fall into, but the problem is trying to separate them. So AIM decided to provide a solution to this problem with the help of FANUC vision techs (Thanks Bryan and Ricky!). Instead of the parts falling into a box we had the parts fall onto a moving conveyor. As they progressed down the conveyor the robot identified the part, grabbed it off of the moving conveyor and stacked it onto a rack. The AIM machine formed 4 different profiles that fell in random order onto the belt. The robot was able to differentiate the parts regardless of the orientation and stack them accordingly. This system can be used on any CNC wire bender and also assist in loading to assembly. For more information on solutions do not hesitate to give us a call.

Coming Soon

AIM Europe News

New Products

At AIM we never rest at designing what our customers want. As decreasing margins take effect and the never ending demand for higher quality products we came out with the AFC line or "COMPACT" line of CNC wire benders.



Our first release was a 1/4" or 6.5mm 3D CNC wire bender which was on display at Fabtech International in Las Vegas in October. We received numerous inquiries and orders for this machine have already started. Development of an 8mm and 10mm version is underway; the 8mm and 10mm version of these machines will be released in spring of 2009.

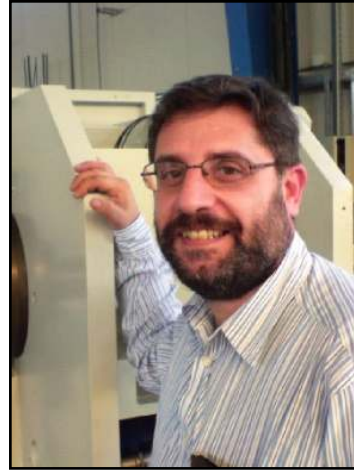
Some of the standard features of these machines are:

- Touch screen programming with Smart editor
 - Multi radii bending
 - Infinite rotation Z axis arm
 - Four wheel drive feeder
 - Wide range straightener from 2.7 to 6.5mm
 - pneumatically actuated dual acting cutter
- Contact our sales department for more info

Coming Soon - New and Improved

Some new features and improvements this last year include a higher capacity threading unit and a newly designed chamfer unit for our double head line of benders, guaranteed not to leave a burr. A smaller more compact arm wire guide with a larger range of wire, the wire range now goes from 2mm to 12mm with the same setup.

Some software upgrades include direct bar code scanning, to automatically call programs and queue jobs by just scanning a tag. An improved step and iges file importation capabilities. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our technical support department.



We would like to welcome Mr. Konstantine Konstantopoulos to AIM Europe! He is the Financial Manager for the company. Konstantine completed his college education at Piraeus University with a degree in Business Administration for Industrial and Financial studies. During his time at the university he began working in his family's business as an assistant to the Managing Director, working specifically with the sales, financial, and accounting aspects. He then left there in 1989 and started his own textile agency. Konstantine returned to the family business as a Managing Director in 2002 due to his father's retirement.

He joined AIM Europe S.A. in September of 2008. Konstantine is aware of many changes over the past 20 years, due to that, the sales marketing policies need to be redesigned and tested continuously. He feels that being flexible and having team work can enable our company to have the market share it deserves. Also he believes that we should be guided by our vision statement, "Forming Our Future with Yours."

Trade Shows and Events



World of Concrete
February 3-6, 2009
Las Vegas, NV USA
Las Vegas Convention Center
Booth N2803



TECMA
Expo Bancomer Santa Fe
Av. Santa Fe No. 270
Santa Fe, 01210 Mexico
March 10-13, 2009
Represented by
Master Steel and Service
Booth 434



Interwire
I-X Center, Cleveland,
Ohio, USA
April 27th-30th 2009
Booth 2016



CMTS
Canadian Manufacturing
Technology Show
Direct Energy Centre
Toronto, Ontario Canada
October 19-22, 2009

"Forming Our Future with Yours"

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Steel Wire Bending Machines & Accessories

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