

The 60th MSV: Showing the Best of Czech & Slovak Industry

By Zhang Weilun

The jubilee 60th MSV (International Engineering Fair) has showcased cutting-edge technology and the best of the history and present of the Czech and Slovak industry. From 1 to 5 October 2018, six industrial fairs were held at the Brno Exhibition Centre, together with a unique exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovakia.

Interest in participation in the 60th International Engineering Fair is the highest in the last decade. It is produced that all halls were sold out and approximately 1650 companies from more than 30 countries participated. Exhibitors wanted to attract visitors by the quality and imaginativeness of their expositions, and thus people can expect an attractive show in each pavilion. Top-class machines were producing in real time, robots demonstrated co-operation with human colleagues, viewers transported via virtual reality to factories operating on Industry 4.0 principles. At the same time however, we looked back on history, recalled the legends of Czech and Slovak industry and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of a common state.

Top cutting machines and a new era of robotics

The Brno trade fair is of course not be missed by the leading Czech manufacturers of machine tools and forming machines, who are announcing the launch of several interesting novelties. TAJMAC-ZPS, a producer from Zlín, occupied nearly 400 m² in Hall P; they exhibited four machines, including a highly upgraded vertical machining centre MCFV 1260iP. Another unforgettable exhibition by KOVOSVIT MAS should feature the new KL 285 MC compact lathe alongside other machines. The new machine, in accordance with principles of Industry 4.0, reports by itself on its utilization capacity, and is ready for robotization, automation and integration into production lines. The company Smeral Brno certainly deserved attention among all the manufacturers of forming machines, because they presented a breakthrough in their production programme in Hall B: a hydraulic precision cutting machine with a type designation FBM Smeral 440.

Hall P also featured ABB, whose exhibition stand titled “The New Era of Robotics” aspired to be one of the most

attractive stands at the fair. Visitors can look forward to practical demonstrations of robotic solutions and, among other things, a part of the line for the automotive industry, pipe bending, a demonstration of the Bin-picking technology or the assembly of small parts. Curious visitors should find news and interesting applications in the fields of digitization, simplification and collaboration with the use of new technologies and more intuitive programming of robots. Their main attraction, the one-armed version of the collaborative YuMi robot, was ABB's most agile and compact robotic solution yet. Only a 9.5 kg robot was mounted on a wall or ceiling and integrated into any production environment.

Czechoslovak pavilion A1 with a “100RIES” exhibition and a robot milling out a statue of President Masaryk

The 60th MSV should be a Czechoslovak one and it was best shown in Hall A1 through the “100RIES” exhibition, which tell a hundred stories of Czechoslovak industrial legends of the past century. The exhibits included a jet loom, a lightweight machine gun model 26, a Prim watch, a Jawa 350 motorcycle or a Zetor Crystal tractor in both the historic and current versions. Same as during the first International Engineering Fair in 1959, a Blaník L 13 glider was hanging over the visitors' heads. Some exhibits did not even fit inside the 100RIES exhibition, such as the famous Silver Arrow engine which was displayed on the tracks in front of Hall A1. The biggest attractions will also include a replica of the statue of President T. G. Masaryk, which decorated the rotunda of Hall A in 1928 when the exhibition centre was first opened. During the fair, the statue was milled out by a three-meter robot directly before visitors' eyes.

MSV is not just about exhibitors — every year it also becomes the largest five-day conference centre of the Czech Republic and beyond with an industrial focus. The most important events include the traditional Monday Congress of the Confederation of Industry and Transport of the Czech Republic — a key discussion meeting of representatives of the government with the business sector, which became Czechoslovak for the first time and with the participation of the prime ministers of both countries. ©

