

PRESS RELEASE

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MTA DRAWS TOGETHER MACHINE TOOL BUILDER AND TWO UNIVERSITIES FOR GRANT FUNDED PROJECT

An important building block in putting together the high technology deep hole drilling project being pursued by Mollart Engineering, whereby the drill point can be effectively steered or even bowed to avoid other internal features in a material, was the influence and input of the Machine Technologies Association (MTA). The MTA was the catalyst and used its networking relationships to draw together two leading universities to work with Mollart's design, development and application engineers for certain key parts of the project.

Said Managing Director Guy Mollart: "The Acubore project is a totally new concept in deep hole machining that will provide a valuable 'solution provider' to the advance of industry sectors such as the nuclear, oil and gas, fluid power and aerospace when producing very complex, expensive components in often difficult to machine materials."

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As a result of a co-ordinated approach and presentation, Mollart Engineering was able to secure a government grant of up to £250,000 from Technology Strategy Board's Smart scheme that provides support for research and development projects in strategically important areas of science, engineering and technology.

According to Richard Griffiths Technical Manager at MTA who formed the link between Mollart Engineering, the University of Huddersfield and Cranfield University: "We think this is a first when a member company of the MTA has been able to work closely to involve different parts of a research project with two universities."

He explains how several universities including Huddersfield and Cranfield are members of the MTA and following a request from Mollart for advice, the association was able to use its networking ability amongst research departments in various university establishments to bring the three parties together.

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Said Mr Mollart: “The MTA has a range of technical support activities and has access to CECIMO, representing the European Machine Tool Industry and ORGALIME, the European Engineering Industries Association which can open doors with other associations and companies able to collaborate across frontiers which can also help to generate valuable financial support.”

The Mollart Acubore process will enable the deep hole drill to be steered to maintain its projected path, targeted for breakout position and corrected for any error. For holes between 6 mm and 50 mm diameter the gundrilling method will be used and for holes up to 65 mm diameter the heavier duty BTA system. In both applications blind holes up to 3,500 mm deep and through holes up to 7,000 mm in depth will be able to be drilled from solid.

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