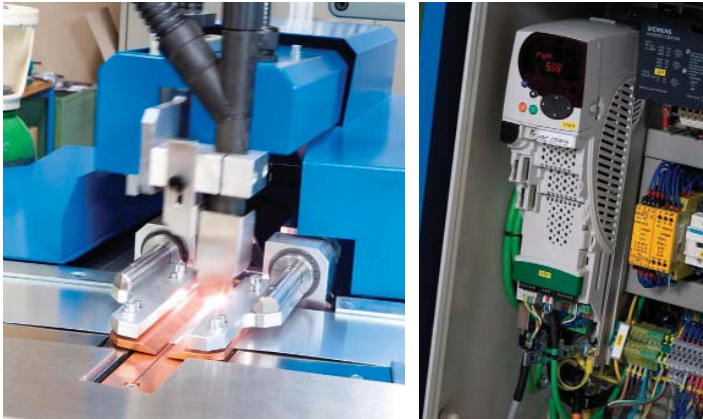


## Soprem Choose Control Techniques To Be The Heart Of Their New Automatic Welder



**A new Strip End Welding machine from Soprem Automation A.G. of Switzerland has a Control Techniques Unidrive SP at its heart controlling all pneumatic movements as well as the speed and current of the welding torch.**

The automatic welder features in a plastic plumbing pipe production line. The plastic extrusion process requires the plastic to be heated to an extremely high temperature which can take a long time, once it has reached the correct temperature the production process must be continuous and therefore so must the aluminium strip feed.

The strip end welding machine ensures that when one roll is about to run out the operator can easily set another roll to be welded on to the end of the strip.

“A sensor on the decoiler detects when the roll is about to run out and then sounds an alarm, the operator then only needs to place the two ends to be welded together on the automatic welder and press the start button,” states Pascal Mathys, Electrical Engineer for Soprem A.G. “The whole welding process is then controlled by the Unidrive SP and the SM Applications module within it.”

The aluminium strip is clamped, cut and then moved into position all through pneumatic movement controlled by the SM Applications programming. The Unidrive SP controls the movement of the welding head across the ends of the aluminium strip, however it is vital that the weld is continuous across the whole join and there are no holes left at either end due to the starting and stopping of the weld. To ensure this is the case the current of the weld is controlled by the SM Applications module, the current starts low as the welding

head travels slowly to begin with, then across the middle section the head travels faster and the current is turned up and as the head gets close to the end it slows down and the current is again lowered.

“The Unidrive SP and SM Applications module have enabled the machine to be accurate to 0.1mm,” comments Pascal. “Using the combination of a HMI Touch Screen direct to a drive which houses all the intelligence has led to many advantages such as eliminating the requirement for an external PLC saving space and cost. Recipes for different widths and thicknesses of strip can be stored in the HMI making the machine very easy to use for the end customer.”

“The SM Applications module has also saved our electrical engineers many hours work; it used to take 30 to 40 hours to program a machine now it only takes 4 or 5” continues Pascal. “We write the program to the laptop where it is stored and then it just needs to be downloaded to the module. This has vastly reduced the amount of work required per machine.”

All of these points have been very important to Soprem in the development of this machine as it is destined for the Eastern European Market where ensuring quality performance at low cost is a must!

Soprem Automation AG, of Grenchen Switzerland, founded in 1961, specialise in producing press shop equipment and winder technology. Teams of highly skilled engineers work to provide bespoke solutions for customers worldwide.

### KEY BENEFITS

- ACCURATE TO 0.1MM
- ELIMINATED PLC REQUIREMENT SAVING SPACE & COST
- REDUCED PROGRAMMING TIME
- QUALITY PERFORMANCE AT LOW COST



For further information please visit [www.controltechniques.com](http://www.controltechniques.com)



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