

Machining modules make for flexible manufacturing layouts

Special, job-specific machines offer shops low costs on a per-part basis, but are limited in what they can do. Machining centers, on the other hand, are extremely flexible and able to handle a variety of tasks, but are expensive and need high volumes to keep per-part costs low. A new approach comes from Russell T. Gilman, an SKF company based in Grafton, Wis. Module-Mation flexible machining cells give shop owners both low part costs at almost any volume and the flexibility to use the cells in producing a variety of parts.

Each standardized module comes with a choice of three spindle types, (belt, motorized, or turret) and two types of ways, roller bearing slides or hardened. All of these can be simply and easily changed on the shop floor. This lets the modules handle high loads for cast iron and mild steels, or low loads for aluminum, composites and hardened steel. They can also use high or low-speed spindles. The standard model has a 400-mm cube work area, which can be expanded, and it accepts 40 Taper tooling. The company says it manufactures standard cells in quantity, and prices them lower than other machining cells.

Circle 401

Cell modules can be equipped with motorized, belt, or turret spindles and can be reconfigured on the shop floor.

Column can be rotated 90° for maximum rigidity with a horizontal side-mounted spindle.

Cell can use roller-bearing or hardened-way construction and be reconfigured on the shop floor.

Modules are CNC-ready with limit switches, feedback and coolant systems, and piping and wiring accessories.

