

Machine tool SMEs on tech

The Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association zeroes in on German technical universities to bring cutting edge technologies to processes

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The Indian machine tool industry is growing at over 20 per cent year-on-year. A number of Indian players are looking at operations abroad. However, the technological prowess of the industry still lags behind the intellectual property in the field, developed elsewhere.

It is difficult for small and medium enterprises in the sector to access cutting edge technologies. Sensing this, the Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA), the nodal association for the machine tool industry, has taken upon itself the task of improving the level of technology implementation. The body is actively scouting for partnerships with domestic and overseas universities and institutions doing cutting edge work.

The IMTMA has set up a technology division at New Delhi to address the requirements of the industry. The division has recently taken up a joint



IMTMA has recently signed an agreement with another German institute, the Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering, based in Stuttgart

programme with the Technical University of Darmstadt in Germany on adoption of lean manufacturing processes by Indian companies. Two Indian machine tool companies are currently involved in this joint programme. IMTMA also led a 7-member delegation to Saxony in Germany for exploring

similar technology tie-ups.

NK Dhand, president, IMTMA, said: "India is no longer just another aspirant to being a manufacturing base. The launch of the Nano by the Tata Group has proved that innovations can take place in India as well. For such innovations to be common place,

the machining sector, a critical input in the manufacturing process, needs to leapfrog its level of technology and compete with the best in the world. That is why we are partnering overseas institutions with proven records of possessing cutting edge intellectual property."

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