

Felder Group India In-House Shows

In the month of July, Felder hosted their annual In-House Shows at their Mumbai HO and Bangalore showroom. The technology on display at both In-House Shows was well appreciated by over 80 visitors, who in some cases travelled great distances in order to see live demonstrations of the machines.

The events coincided with two important milestones in the history of Felder Group. The first is the completion of 55 years of successful worldwide operations of Felder Group. With a distribution network spanning 60 countries over six continents, Felder Group is amongst the top woodworking machinery manufacturers in the world. Its ever widening product program allows customers to benefit from the decades of experience of Felder Group.

The second and probably an equally important milestone for Felder Group India is the installation of the 100th Felder G500 edgbander in India. Launched in 2007, the G500 series is already a top favourite amongst the entry level carpentries in India. After an extremely short learning process, Felder Group more than made up with the introduction of the year 2011



version of the G500 series. The new machines can be set up customers without any trial and error. This is especially important for start ups, since they may not have access to highly skilled staff needed for setting up complicated machines.

It is pertinent to note that, in these uncertain times, one certainty is the stability of the Felder India team. Customers who have invested in a Felder even a decade ago are sure to receive support in the form of spares and service even today. In fact, the Felder Team cherishes old Felder's and such customers are most welcome. They would do their level best to ensure that your Felder works for one more decade, at least.

Machines are available for display and live demos at the two showrooms of Felder Group India.

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Eumabois: Raw Material Price Rally Puts Tool Manufacturers Under Strong Pressure

Hard Metal Prices Doubled

Raw material shortages and consequent price increases are putting precision tool manufacturers under strong pressure. After the worst-ever drop of machinery and tools demand in 2008-2009, the market is back to growth. However, recovery has also brought a price increase in raw materials required to produce cutting edges, whereas such costs had not decreased proportionally during the crisis. So, toolmakers are now facing increases of up to 100 % in one year.

The most affected item is tungsten carbide, a key ingredient for hard metals. According to the mid-2009 Metal Bulletin, the price of the most popular tungsten-based commercial product (ammonium

paratungstate, APT) at the peak of the crisis was around 200 dollars per metric ton, while in May 2011 it reached 480 dollars. At present, month-on-month price increases by more than 15 percent are not unusual. Slight price decreases for cobalt, used as binder for hard metal (HW) cutting edges, cannot compensate for the overall price increase.

There are multiple reasons for this price rally, especially for tungsten. Approximately 80 percent of global tungsten ore production comes from China. Only 60 percent of tungsten mines are located in China, but in recent years, mining activities in other countries have been discontinued due to low prices. Despite massive tungsten ore resources available in North America and Bolivia, for instance, it is virtually impossible to turn to other suppliers. It seems that some Western mining companies are considering to re-open a few mining