



STOPA tower storage system in the pit

The company HANSA Ventilatoren- und Maschinenbau Neumann GmbH in Saterland decided to invest in a STOPA TOWER Flex sheet metal storage system. The goal was to allow the system and the connected stamping machine to run unattended. In this way, at the end of a shift the storage system and the machine would be able to handle up to eight programmed jobs automatically.

The company's factory building was not able to accommodate a tower storage system of the required height. STOPA Anlagenbau GmbH, Achern-Gamshurst, therefore modified its system to fit the customer's needs and installed it in a pit. HANSA did not want to make any compromises in terms of height because the system had to cope with a wide range of materials. Today the system stores sheets made of aluminium, galvanised steel and high-grade steel in thicknesses from 0.8 to three millimetres. The seven-metre-high tower storage system has 44 flat pallets, each with a usable space of up to 1,525 x 3,050 millimetres and a permissible capacity of up to 3,000 kilograms.

Optimised manufacturing process

The STOPA TOWER Flex is designed to optimise the manufacturing process and provides material automatically. The advantages include a high degree of space utilisation, faster access to sheets and further improvements in organisation. In addition, damage to material has been reduced because, for example, there is no longer any forklift traffic between the cantilever arm storage system and the sheet metal store.

The STOPA TOWER Flex supplies sheets to a TRUMPF TruPunch 5000 stamping machine and picks up the stamped finished parts. After stamping, an automatic handling unit at the station deposits the parts on wooden pallets that rest on the flat pallets of the system. The parts are retrieved on request. Finished parts from

fixed locations in the tower storage system are supplied to the assembly station, a swivel bending machine and press brakes. This system handles 99.9 percent of the 350 to 400 metric tons of sheet metal processed each year by the company.

Storage and retrieval with just a few clicks

The system's components are controlled by a real-time soft PLC, which presents a graphic visualisation of its status. A warehouse management system communicates with the machine via an interface set up by STOPA. It manages the stocks, controls the flow of material and enables the operator to issue movement instructions and material requests right at the machine.

The direct interface between the storage system and the stamping machine was an important reason for HANSA's investment decision. The integrated RAID system

makes it possible to continue operations in the event of a hard disk failure, increasing the availability of the system. In a power failure the uninterruptible power supply (UPS) shuts down the PC automatically. As a part of its warranty, STOPA provides a teleservice that can diagnose faults and make suggestions on how to rectify them.



Die Idee, das Lager in eine Grube zustellen, erwies sich als wirtschaftlichste Lösung

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