

High-precision grinding is an art

Starting a business always requires a certain amount of risk-taking. "It's like a motorcycle race. If you don't want to take any risks, you might miss your chance to win," says Randy Gevers, the CEO of GRT-Tech, based in The Netherlands, with the steely blue eyes and winning smile. It goes without saying that you also need a lot of perseverance, technical acumen and passion.

Passionate grinder Randy Gevers knows what he's talking about: Before founding his company GRT-Tech, he enjoyed years of success in motorcycle racing. But his success story doesn't begin with him, but with his father, Antoon Gevers, who not only instilled in his son a passion for engines and technology, but also for metalworking and, in particular, grinding. Antoon Gevers is something of a grinder whisperer. Like no other, he extracted every last micron from every machine and helped the companies he worked for achieve success in this field over his 50 years of working life. The development of moulds for CD presses in 1980 definitively cemented Antoon Gevers' reputation in the grinding world.

After years of working together as grinders in a company, the Gevers family took the plunge in 2016 with their father's early retirement and went into business for themselves. The first machine Randy Gevers purchased was a conventional grinder, with others following quickly. Fittingly, the first customers came from the KTM world, as the Gevers family had built a large network through racing. Their former employers soon



began offering contract manufacturing orders as well.

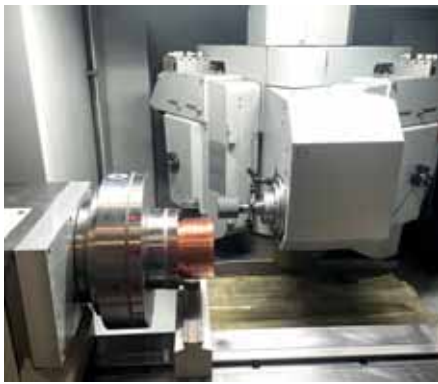
Today, customers from the aerospace, medical technology, tool and mould making and packaging industries trust the Gevers, as do the navy, luxury yacht builders and many more. Among the discerning customers who value GRT-Tech's work are suppliers to the semiconductor industry. "Theoretically, we could survive on this alone," says Randy Gevers. "But a company shouldn't become dependent on one another and ultimately, it's the diversity of parts that makes the work so appealing." The range of materials used at

GRT-Tech extends from steel, various stainless steels, brass and copper to ceramics and plastics. Typically, small batches of up to around 50 pieces are manufactured, but individual parts and prototypes are also produced. Antoon Gevers often manufactures special parts for motorcycles and vintage cars, which customers entrust to him based on his experience.

Randy Gevers quickly realised that machining complex workpieces, such as those used in tool and mould making or medical technology, quickly reached its limits with a conventional grinding machine. So, after moving to the current location in 2018, he purchased a powerful, used Kellenberger KEL-VARIA CNC universal cylindrical grinding machine. "Right from the start, we had a lot of requests for grinding complex workpieces," explains Randy Gevers. "But we could only accept around 10 percent of them. I couldn't and didn't want to continue like that." The decision in favour of a Kellenberger grinding machine wasn't difficult. Antoon and Randy Gevers knew and valued these machines from their time with their former employer.

The KEL-VARIA is a predecessor model of today's premium KELLENBERGER K1000 series and, like the KELLENBERGER K1000, stands for the highest machining and surface quality. Its high static and dynamic rigidity and stability are crucial factors for its high precision and high productivity. Hydrostatic guides in all main axes ensure the highest





dimensional accuracy for grinding tasks with interpolating axes. The B-axis has a direct drive. This allows the turret grinding head to swivel approximately three times faster and position with an accuracy of less than one arc second. This reduces non-productive time and thus increases productivity, especially when machining requires the swivelling in of different grinding wheels.

Due to the positive experience, another Kellenberger grinding machine quickly found its way to Heeswijk-Dinther, a universal internal and external cylindrical grinding machine KELLENBERGER K100. René van der Peet from the sales company BMT Bridgeport Machine Tools, which has represented the Kellenberger, Hardinge and Bridgeport brands, all part of the US Hardinge Group, in the Netherlands for years, acted as a consultant. His experience was of great benefit to Randy Gevers in selecting the machine.

The KELLENBERGER K100 is available with centre distances of 1,000/600 mm and a centre height of 200 mm and is designed for workpiece weights up to 150 kg. The high drive power of the grinding wheel ensures increased productivity, while the newly developed Z-guide ensures high profile accuracy. The C-axis with direct drive provides greater precision in non-circular grinding. The machine's technical highlights include an innovative compact grinding head, 10 grinding head variants, 11.5 kW drive power, 500 mm wheel, up to 63 m/s, HF spindles for internal grinding including diagonal and tandem arrangements, a collision-free universal head with three tool and one measuring positions and a new probe arrangement without a swivel

mechanism for increased measuring accuracy.

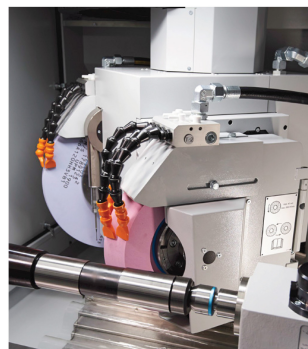
Randy Gevers chose the longer overall length of 1,000 mm to allow for more flexibility in part size, as well as a grinding head variant with two external grinding spindles, one internal grinding spindle and a tactile measuring head. The high-frequency spindle, with a speed range of 6,000 to 40,000 rpm, has an internal coolant supply. The machine is equipped with a FANUC 31i CNC control and the corresponding software comes from Kellenberger.



DF Precision Machinery Ltd
Tel: 0116 2013000
Email: sales@dfpmach.com
https://dfpmach.com



THE HOME OF HIGH PRECISION



DF Precision Machinery Ltd is not only the official global supplier of Jones & Shipman spares, service and support, holding the OEM records & software and the largest J&S spare parts stock in the world. DF also supply proven solutions from individual machines through to turnkey cells from world renowned suppliers of Cylindrical, Universal, Surface, Profile, Vertical, Rotary, Internal, Creepfeed, Jig Centre Hole Grinding, Automation Solutions, plus Lapping, Flat Honing and Polishing Technologies.

OUR EXCLUSIVE BRANDS



Contact us to experience the DF difference

www.jonesshipman.com www.dfpmach.com

DF Precision Machinery Ltd. Tel 0116 201 3000 Email sales@dfpmach.com

