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Feature Articles

»» ASSEMBLY PLANT OF THE YEAR: AGCO CORP.

AGCO Corp.'s assembly plant in Jackson, MN, manufactures agricultural tractors and spraying machinery. Producing more than \$500 million worth of equipment annually, the factory employs more than 900 people. Innovation is everywhere at the plant. Nearly 200 pairs of Google Glass are being worn on the shop floor for quality inspections and assembly work. A robotic welding cell changes out its own fixtures and programs itself by reading a 2D code on the fixture. Employee suggestions have saved the company millions of dollars. This article provides an exclusive inside look at our 2017 Assembly Plant of the Year.

»» THE ASSEMBLY SHOW OVERVIEW

The ASSEMBLY Show is the place for assemblers to see the state-of-the-art in assembly technology. This article will highlight the technology on the show floor, and review the workshops, seminars and keynote presentations.

»» THE ASSEMBLY SHOW EXHIBITOR PRODUCT SHOWCASE

The showcase will include descriptions of the equipment, tools and technology that engineers can expect to see on the floor at The ASSEMBLY Show.

»» FRICTION STIR WELDING EXPANDS ITS REACH

In friction stir welding, a rotating tool is positioned over the joint and is pushed into the material. The frictional heat generated by this penetration action softens the material to a plastic condition, making it flow around the tool. The tool is then moved along the joint line, thus plastically deforming the material around the tool and intimately stirring the welding zone. After cooling down, the components are welded together. Although the process was originally developed for joining aluminum, new developments have made it possible to apply the technique to other materials, including steel, copper, titanium and even nylon 6. We report on the latest developments.

»» THE ROLE OF FASTENERS IN AUTOMOTIVE LIGHTWEIGHTING

Threaded and non-threaded fasteners are playing an increasingly important role in helping automotive OEMs reduce vehicle weight. Stronger designs are helping engineers reduce the number of fasteners needed to assemble parts. New fasteners are enabling automakers to join lightweight materials, such as aluminum and advanced high-strength steel. Fastener manufacturers are even reducing the weight of the fasteners themselves. This article reports on the latest developments.

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