

Press information

Quick Die Change (QDC) on metal forming presses.

Renswoude / The Netherlands, February 2009

EAS Europe B.V. the Dutch manufacturer of automation equipment for reducing set up times (SMED) extends the range of products focussing on sheet metal forming machines.

New: Upgrading of conventional metal presses by retrofitting new hydraulic clamps and die lifters.

As a novelty EAS presents hydraulic clamping modules with specific focus on the rationalisation of the manually operated die change. The main components are single hydraulic clamping cylinders. These clamping cylinders can be flexibly placed by the operator in the T-slots of the press platens. As there are no further modifications necessary on the machine, these new clamps are particularly suitable for retrofitting existing machines. They are supplied together with so-called parking stations, designated for placing the clamps during the die removal cycle (see fig. 1). Alternatively there are semiautomatic versions available. These clamps can be positioned with integrated pneumatic or electric driven shuttle units. For presses without T-slots EAS has double acting Twist/Pull-Clamps for mounting on fixed positions.

The scope of clamps is complemented by a wide range of die lifters, now also for heavy-duty applications. These die lifters are available both in rigid versions and alternatively with integrated roller lifters, actuated either by spring force, air or hydraulic pressure, depending on the load to be moved.

The quick set up packages are completed by the power packs. The scope of supply comprises all kinds of equipment from the manually operated pump to compressed air operated unit to electro driven hydraulic power packs.

Comprehensive solutions for the die handling

The die logistics is because of the size and weight a critical task in a production. As both the crane capacity and availability is very often the limiting bottleneck EAS has developed alternatives. These alternatives are primarily floor bound transportation equipment with roller tracks (see fig. 2a) as well as die change carts (see fig. 2b), either rail bound and fully electro driven or freely movable with air cushions and pneumatic drives. The related scope of supply is complemented by a system of storage modules and racks, also in heavy duty execution. Upon request every transportation system can be equipped with communication interfaces and docking stations for an intra-plant transport system with die change carts.

Easy die maintenance with EAS inspection stations

For the die maintenance EAS has developed a wide range of appliances for the easy and safe opening, tilting and disassembling of the often very large and heavy dies (see fig. 3). The main purpose is to provide an ergonomic access to the maintenance positions and to simulate the press movements for function tests.

Utility connection: Easy, fast and fool-proof

Other components that EAS are offering is a full range of media connectors for the quick and easy connection of the different utilities between the die and the machine, such as hydraulic, air and electric connections and a press overload protector. The media connectors are available as single connectors or integrated to media manifold plates.

More information on website: www.EASchangesystems.com

Factbox EAS:

EAS Europe B.V.

EAS is one of the leading manufacturers in the world for automation components and systems for a quick mould and die change in the plastic injection moulding industry as well as in the metal stamping industry.

In the main factory in Renswoude / Holland employees are designing and producing hydraulic and mechanical clamping systems, a large program of mono and multi couplers as well as complete solutions and automatic mould & die change systems. Since the acquisition of the magnetic clamping know how of Walker Brailon in 2005, EAS designs and manufactures magnetic clamping systems. Next to the Dutch headquarters EAS has sales and marketing companies in Europe (France and Italy) North America and Asia.

Pictures:

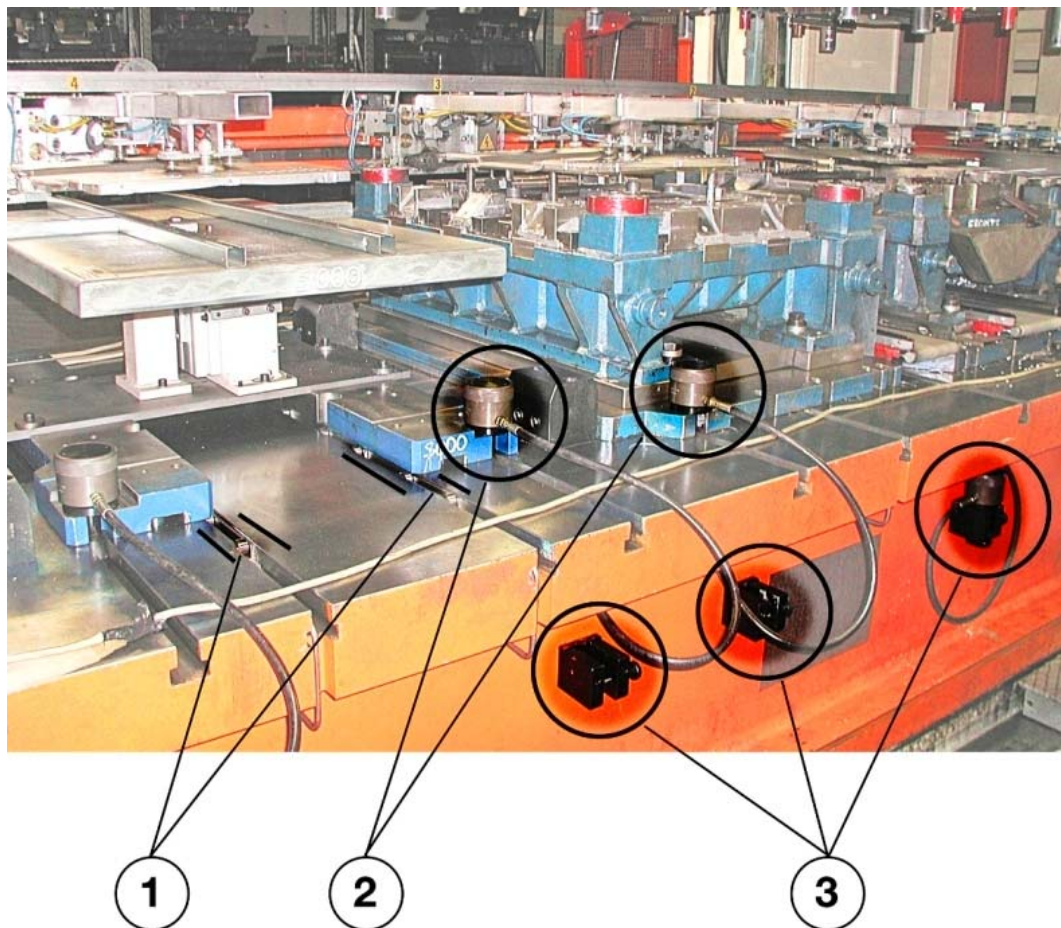


Photo: EAS Europe B.V.

Fig. 1: EAS offers complete sets of equipment for reducing the set up times on existing presses. Such retrofit packages comprise roller track modules with integrated die lifters (Pos 1), T slot hydraulic clamps (Pos 2) and parking stations for hydraulic clamps (Pos 3)



Photo: EAS Europe B.V.

Fig. 2a+b: EAS offers complete solutions for the die logistics around the production machines. Such equipment can be either designed for the manual transportation without the need for a overhead crane (2a) or fully automatic with a change cart (2b) With these sets of equipment the die change times can be reduces from hours to minutes .



Photo: EAS Europe B.V.

Fig. 3: EAS opening and tilting unit for the controlled opening of the die to be inspected in order to easy maintenance and service jobs. That units are available in individual sizes and executions, tailored to the specific application.