

# ETMM

EUROPEAN TOOL & MOULD MAKING

## THE MAGAZINE

### Forty years of spark erosion for successful PCD machining

**Spark Erosion** – 2018 marks the 40th year anniversary of the discovery of spark erosion for the efficient forming of polycrystalline diamonds (PCD) by Horst Lach, Lach Diamant announced. According to the company, the discovery in 1978 marked a milestone in the history of polycrystalline cutting tools.

The idea of spark erosion sparked the awareness and increasing use of PCD, a newly launched cutting material, on a previously inconceivable scale. Today, in 2018, PCD tools are firmly established within the industry.

Polycrystalline tools are an integral part of aluminium machining in the automobile and accessories industry, in wood and composite machining in the furniture, flooring and laminate manufacturing industries, as well as in plastic and circuit board manufacturing and other industries. At Lach Diamant, a separate ma-



The PCD milling cutter with extreme axial angles for processing wood and composite materials – precisely sharpened on a Dia-2200-mini.

chine engineering department was created from discovering the possibilities for spark erosion machining of PCD – at first only for on-site use.

In the mid-80s, so-called Lach Diamant spark erosion machines (Type EDG-plus) were the core business idea for

many start-ups that aimed to get into tool manufacturing and servicing of diamond tools for the wood and plastic industry – at the beginning mostly in Italy and Spain. When asked about the great variety of diamond tool manufacturers born in this man-

ner, Horst Lach can often be heard saying “these are all my children”.

At AMB in Stuttgart, Lach Diamant will present the universal sharpening machine, Dia-2200-mini. The unit is compact and user-friendly for servicing and producing diamond tools in particular, has a Ø of 480 mm for wood and plastic manufacturing, including diamond end mills, scoring saws, jointing cutters, profiling tools and saw blades – from individual production to serial production, tooth-by-tooth in automated processes.

Since EMO 2017, the “mini” model has been available as a special edition, named »Dia-contour-profiled«, for highly precise profiling (convex and concave) of metal-bond diamond and CBN grinding wheels for the serial production of carbide, HSS and ceramic tools.

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Source: Lach Diamant