

News Releases

Surface Automation Systems Purchases Precision Automated Systems

Surface Automation Systems L.L.C. purchased Precision Automated System's assets and all rights thereof. Surface Automation Systems designs and builds high production rate and robust grit blasting, shot peening and thermal spray systems with systems in place around the world. Many former employees of Precision are now involved with Surface Automation. You will also find many new products and programs with the new company: An impressive new blast gun has been recently unveiled by Surface Automation. This proprietary gun design has shown to consume less air and allow Boron insert change-outs without having to remove or replace the gun housing. They also developed a proprietary resource planning program which has proven to significantly decrease lead-times for machine builds as well as lower machine costs. Customers have also enjoyed virtually instant updates on the status of their machines with this new information system.

Visit the staff, see the new blast gun, review their robust grit blasting, shot peening, and thermal spray systems at their Website: <http://www.SurfaceBlasting.com>. Visit the informational website today, or schedule a plant visit at our new location: 002 84th St. SW, Byron Center, MI 49315. Call toll free at 1-800-470-0035.

New Brochure from USF Surface Preparation

USF Surface Preparation has published a new worldwide distribution brochure.

This eight-page full-color brochure describes USF Surface Preparation's distribution of products, which is designed to provide a full line of equipment, abrasives, parts and full service support. For copies of the brochure, please contact Beth Purdy by e-mail at purdyb@mindspring.com or call 1-800-544-4144.

USF Surface Preparation is the largest distribution network of solutions for any surface cleaning, finishing, deburring, peening, dust collection, or wastewater treatment need. Our distribution network includes leading brands of equipment, such as Wheelabrator, BCP, Schlick, Spencer & Halstead, Gutmann, Vacu-Blast, Sisson Lehmann, Matrasur, Pangborn Europe, Blastrac, Tilghman, Schmidt, Sawtec, Vaxjet and Abrasive Materials.

With a worldwide network of over 40 sales, service and distribution centers strategically placed to assist our customers, delivery is always fast and efficient. In addition, USF Surface Preparation has 26 manufacturing facilities in North America, Europe and Asia, giving the company a truly worldwide network of distribution solutions. USF Surface Preparation is part of United States Filter Corporation (NYSE/USF), which is based in Palm Desert, California. USFilter invites you to visit its websites at www.surfacepreparation.com and www.usfilter.com.

Vacu-Blast Closed-Circuit Machine Operates Behind the Scenes on Airbus Composites R&D

A Vacu-Blast "Closed-Circuit" dust-free mobile abrasive blasting machine is playing an important behind-the-scenes role at the British Aerospace Airbus wing design and manufacturing

facility in Filton, Bristol. Vacu-Blast is part of the USF Surface Preparation Group.

The machine - a suction-fed 'SA-04' model - is being used by a British Aerospace research and development team for the surface preparation of a wide variety of composite test parts, prior to bonding.

The parts involved are employed in on-going R&D work on the use of composites - carbon-fibre in particular - for Airbus wing box sections and other wing components. The use of bonded composite materials for certain wing structures has weight-saving benefits which could lead to significant improvements in aircraft performance and engine fuel efficiency.

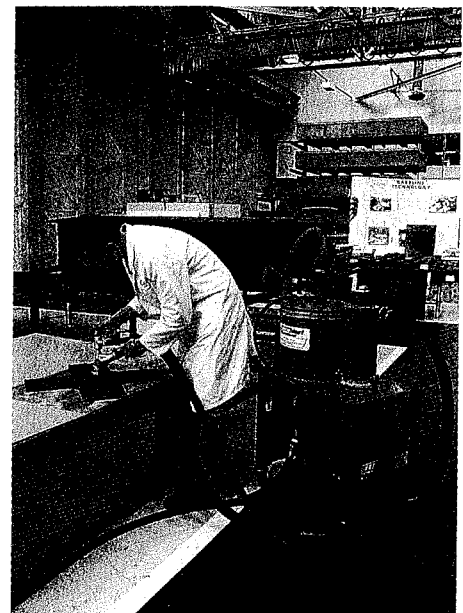
As with all bonding operations, optimum preparation of the surfaces to be mated is vital to the integrity of the resultant joint.

A Vacu-Blast "Closed-Circuit" machine was selected for surface preparation as it not only provides a gently-applied and consistent surface etch to a controllable depth - in this case using an aluminum oxide blast media - but it also offers the mobility to be moved easily around the workshop and test areas without hindering other operations.

Invented by Vacu-Blast, the Closed-Circuit system uses a special enclosed blast gun which both delivers the abrasive blast media and recovers it simultaneously by vacuum, together with resultant dust and debris. The machine's power-pack then automatically separates out reusable media and recycles it to the gun. Degraded media, dust and debris are directed into a dust collector for safe disposal. This integral, continuous regrading and recycling process ensures a consistent, high-quality surface finish and minimizes running costs.

Vacu-Blast Closed-Circuit machines come in pressure-fed as well as suction-fed versions, in a range of sizes to suit low and high capacity applications - from the highly maneuverable 'Midget' machine for general workshop use, to the very powerful PB14 Series. Special blast guns are available for processing angular and profiled surfaces, edges and large flat areas of floor or decking, as well as for cleaning hot welds. The machines can be used with all types of abrasive blast media, including the latest plastic and organic materials.

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