

Press Release

AMB Novelty

Next generation of innovative measurement system released

Etalon's completely redesigned LaserTRACER-NG sets new standards for the calibration of machine tools and CMMs

Braunschweig/Germany, 16 September 2014 – Etalon's LaserTRACER was specially developed for the sub-micron-accurate geometric analysis, monitoring and accuracy improvement of machine tools and measuring machines. It is a self-tracking laser interferometer that automatically tracks a reflector, and hence allows for the identification of geometrical deviations with highest precision. The compensation data determined by the system can be directly imported into the control software of the machine tool or CMM.

Smaller, faster, more functional and ready for application on the shopfloor

The follow-up model LaserTRACER-NG is an entirely redesigned system that consolidates Etalon's experiences gained during the last ten years of machine calibration. Its first public presentation will take place today at the trade show AMB in Stuttgart/Germany. The LaserTRACER-NG is smaller, weighs less and offers a larger angular range. Thus, it facilitates the measurement in limited machine space. Moreover, it can deal with highly dynamic machine movements: The accelerations of the machine permitted during measurement have nearly doubled.

Shop floor suitability was also a major aspect when redesigning the measurement system. Originally, the LaserTRACER had mainly been used under laboratory conditions. In recent years, it has forged ahead into production, now facing much harsher conditions. To prepare the new LaserTRACER-NG for this challenging environment, it is equipped with a closed housing, just two connectors and a more flexible cable.

Unchanged high accuracy

In contrast to conventional measurement devices, the LaserTRACER-NG features, just like the previous model, an unprecedented accuracy of the center of rotation thanks to a patented measurement technique: A sphere with a form deviation of just 50 nanometers is used as an optical reference for the interferometer. As a consequence, the mechanical errors of the rotation and swivel axes are fully compensated.

The measurement process

For measurement execution, the LaserTRACER-NG is stationary placed at several different positions inside the working volume of the machine. Then, the reflector is mounted to the tool or probe. In the following automated measuring process, the system tracks the actual path of the machine in its entire working volume. Meanwhile, the system acquires highly precise measurement values that are processed and analyzed by Etalon's software package Trac-Cal.

Presentation at AMB

Etalon presents the LaserTRACER-NG at the trade show AMB in Stuttgart from 16–20 September 2014 (Hall 4, Stand C31).

About Etalon AG:

Etalon offers system solutions for the accurate and comprehensive geometric analysis, monitoring and accuracy improvement of machine tools, measuring machines, and robots. A number of innovative technologies make Etalon's products efficient and easy to use. The consistently high accuracy is the key advantage in a challenging environment. Etalon's customers are companies from mechanical engineering, industrial instrumentation, automotive and aerospace technology, and the research sector. Etalon is active worldwide in the high technology markets and works with competent local partners to optimally support customers. In the area of machine compensation, Etalon is an official Zeiss Business Partner as well as Siemens Solution Partner.

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