

New milling machine enhances Technology Department

by Mr. Alex Johnson

This year has been very exciting for the Technology Department’s Production Lab. This year another 9x42 Grizzly milling machine was added to the two existing mills and digital readouts were also installed on the machines. The new milling machine brings the total in the lab to four and all of them experienced heavy use during the previous spring semester by both students and faculty. In addition to the milling machine a Rockwell hardness-testing machine was also acquired and incorporated into the manufacturing curriculum.

We are also eagerly awaiting the arrival of a Tormach PCNC 1100 milling machine package, which is expected to be here for the spring 2009 semester. The Tormach was designed to meet the needs of education, small business and research and development departments who need an affordable priced CNC mill that is capable of cutting a variety of materials including titanium and stainless steels, materials that both students and faculty have used in the past. The package that we are purchasing offers a deluxe stand with coolant pump and many additional features such as quick change tooling and rotary table that provides a 4th axis. The Tormach will be used to replace our existing Emco CNC mill, which has become outdated.

The decision to purchase the Tormach came after considerable research of the available models of CNC mills that fit within the Department’s budget and needs. Communication with other users of this milling machine indicated that it was both a reliable and flexible machine, qualities that are needed by the Department. The PCNC 1100 will be used in a wide variety of courses that are offered in the Department, in addition to individual student projects.

If you want to read more about the specifications of this machine please check out the website at: http://www.tormach.com/Product_PCNC_main.html

