

Publication for the  
Peening, Blasting,  
Cleaning and  
Vibratory Finishing  
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MFN Shot Peening  
Workshop in Germany  
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MFN Shot Peening  
Workshop in Spain  
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Metal Finishing News

# MFN

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**ROSLER**  
finding a better way ...

**Vol. 14, January Issue, Year 2013**

Interview with **Silvester Tribus**, CEO of  
**TBM Automation AG**; **Urs Tobler**, Head of  
Peening Controls, **TBM Automation AG**

## Innovative Controls And Sensors For Shot Peening And Blasting Applications

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*peening controls*

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## Innovative Controls And Sensors For Shot Peening And Blasting Applications

**MFN spoke to Mr. Silvester Tribus, CEO and Mr. Urs Tobler, Head of Peening Controls, of TBM Automation AG. Today TBM is one of the world's leading manufacturers of controls, sensors and flow meters for the aerospace and automotive industries. Premium products are offered that are used for shot peening as well as dry and wet blasting purposes. Recently, TBM entered a cooperative agreement with Roxor Strahltechnik.**

**(?) MFN:** With over 20 years of robust presence in the global market for shot blasting and shot peening applications, how have you experienced this journey?

**(!) S. T.:** TBM's journey began in 1991 as the supplier of controls for Baiker machines. Walter Terpetschnig, our co-founder, brought the expertise of shot peening controls into the company. The first machines equipped were CNC shot peening machines for Swissair. Only one year later, in 1992, the first process-visualisation system for a Baiker CNC shot peening machine had been developed for MTU Munich - the first of its kind marketed. Since then CNC, PLC and Robot controls for about 150 machines worldwide have been delivered. The scope has been wet and dry blasting

and peening, precision inside-peening systems and peen-forming machines.

**(?) MFN:** Let's talk about you personally. What have your personal career goals with TBM been?

**(!) U. T.:** I have been in control engineering for more than 30 years now, having joined TBM in 1996. At that time I started as a project manager for software development focusing on CNC controls and visualization systems for the aerospace industry. Since 2005, I have been working in management and have been promoted to the Head of Peening Control business.

**(!) S. T.:** After completing my studies in automation I worked for several years at Daimler Benz as a mechanical



**CNC control-cabinet of wet blasting machine**

designer. Then, I joined TBM in 1992 as a project manager for electrical design and software developments, in charge of aerospace projects for several years thereafter. In 1998 I was promoted to TBM's management team, and for nearly 5 years my focus has been in sales and administration. Currently, management consists of Mr. Hubert Mathis, Head of Ceramic Industry controls, Mr. Urs Tobler, and me.

**(?) MFN:** You said you have equipped 150 machines with your controls. Which companies use your controls in manufacturing equipment?

**(!) S. T.:** There are many of them. In the aerospace industry Airbus, Lufthansa, MTU, Rolls Royce, Liebherr Aerospace, GE, KSA, Bombardier and many others use TBM's controls. In the automotive industry Mercedes, VW, Opel, as well as others, use our controls. Our products are used from Switzerland to New Zealand.

**(?) MFN:** You have said that your process visualisation systems represent a core business of TBM. How does this look today and what are the requirements to stay in this business?

**(!) U. T.:** In general, our visualisation software meets the SAE AMS 2432C requirements for process monitoring, supervision of axis movements, alarming, reporting and storage. As



**Silvester Tribus, CEO of TBM Automation AG, with new generation flow metering**



**Urs Tobler, Head of Peening Controls, TBM Automation AG, with non-ferrous sensor**





## SR Technics



We are one of the world's leading providers of technical solutions to airlines. Through our integrated service solutions we make sure our customer airlines have airworthy aircraft ready and available to fly. To and from any destination. Around the clock, around the globe.

To support our Team in the Engine Department, we are looking for a:

**CNC/NC - SHOT PEENING OPERATOR**  
(m/f, Ref. OERBM)

**You will be responsible for:**

- rays of engine-and 3rd parts (according to regulations)
- preparing the blasting process: Cover and prepare the machine
- monitor the blasting process (Almen- test, machine monitoring)
- follow the blasting process
- time and attendance on the working papers
- safety Management System (SMS) live
- integrate CI (Lean Six Sigma tools such as 5S/FWD/VSM/7 waste etc.) in daily business
- support other teams, within the SC (if necessary)
- maintenance of machinery
- creating of beam programs (if needed)

**Your profile:**

- Completed apprenticeship with a technical background
- Technical knowledge and understanding
- Willingness to change
- Logic thinking skills
- Willingness to 2-shift operation
- readiness for new, additional training
- PC skills (Word, Excel, SAP)
- very good NC and CNC knowledge fluently in German and English

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Direct applications are preferred.

as machine process-quality, machine performance and uptime, long-term spare part supply, support, energy consumption and other criteria. If we count the advantages and costs during the product's lifecycle, you will see it is worthwhile. Also, we have a clear focus on "tailor-made" solutions, not mass production, so individual customer's needs are met satisfactorily. Furthermore, we are not dependent on a short-term payback of our developments. This has been a long-term business for us, of more than 20 years, and will continue to be one.

**(?) MFN:** We have read recently that you have found a new partner in Roxor Strahltechnik and together are presently providing complete peening and blasting equipment. How did this partnership arise?

**(!) S. T.:** This partnership is not really new. For more than 20 years, our ceramic-industry controls business unit has been working with Freymatic Group, which is the owner of Roxor Strahltechnik. As we have started to widen our peening and blasting scope, we have likewise extended our long-term partnership. The company has been well-known and respected for its Swiss high-quality machinery and service level worldwide since 1923. As an experienced machine manufacturer of complete automated production lines, they have the infrastructure such as the assembly hall and machine outfit that are required. Furthermore, they have the logistics for worldwide support and spare part supply. Our business requirements have been met by this partnership.

**(?) MFN:** What current activities are you working on together? Could you give us some details about the synergies?

**(!) U. T.:** TBM and Roxor have a powerful engineering and design team with decades of experience connected to short decision-making processes. In less than one year, Roxor developed a new dosing system that had set standards. Together with TBM's ferrous flow meter, we are able to control media dosing of all ferrous media with a tolerance of less than +/-3% of set point. Even higher



**R&D peening system developed by Roxor and TBM**

requirements can be realized when requested by customers. Therefore, we have been able to reach a maximum repeatability of the peening process, which has led to an improvement of machine performance. First systems have already been placed in the field.

**(?) MFN:** What are you planning for the future? What are the perspectives in your view?

**(!) S. T.:** TBM's focus is not on a component business - we concentrate on a system business. For example, we do not plan to sell our ferrous flow meter as a single part. We only want to provide it as an integral part of a system consisting of dosing, measuring and control. Together with Roxor, we have established a complete peening system for R&D, customized testing and presentation. With this equipment, we can also pre-calibrate our media flow controls for our customers' media. So today, Roxor can provide fully completed top-quality peening machinery equipped with TBM's controls and sensors. We are ready for takeoff!

*We at MFN would like to thank Mr. Urs Tobler and Mr. Silvester Tribus for this interview.*

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