

# Productivity in Motion



KMT Robotic Solutions' Quarterly eNewsletter

March 2008

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## KMT's RoboTrim FT-502: Expansive Trimming Flexibility in a Small Footprint



The RoboTrim FT-502 is KMT's newest standard, cost effective router trimming system designed to help blowmolders, rotational molders, thermoformers and composite manufacturers increase throughput, uptime and employee safety.

The FT-502 features a wall-mounted, six axis AccuTrim R-44 robot, its R-30iA robot controller and a FANUC iPendant color teach pendant. Parts up to 3 foot x 5 foot (915 mm x 1525 mm) are placed on a stationary fixture table in the center of the system's steel enclosure. The manual front access doors (equipped with safety interlocks) enable operators to easily load and unload parts, while the additional built-in safety devices protect the operator while the system is trimming.

To view the RoboTrim FT-502 web page and datasheet, please [click here](#).

## Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 Could Provide Powerful Tax Incentives for Capital Investments

The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, recently signed into law by US President George Bush, includes two significant business related tax incentives that could substantially lower the cost of investing in new capital equipment.

According to an article published by Deloitte Tax LLP and the National Association of Manufacturers, the law states that US-based companies that purchase less than \$800,000 of capital assets in a year can now expense the first \$250,000 of capital investment for purchases made in 2008.

The article states that the law also includes a new 50 percent expensing allowance (also known as bonus or accelerated depreciation) that generally applies to capital equipment purchased and placed in service during 2008. This incentive is available to all companies, regardless of the size of their investment. Under this provision, smaller companies get even more of a "bonus" because they can first take advantage of expensing and then use the 50 percent

Routing



Waterjet



Laser



Knife

expensing allowance.

[Click here](#) to read the article referenced above and to view a list of qualified property. Please consult your tax advisor for additional information.

### **Plastics Unlimited Saves Time and Improves Quality with a KMT JetTool® System, AccuFind™ and CAMpro™**

Plastics Unlimited, Inc., an Iowa-based custom thermoformer, manufactures a variety of products for the automotive, recreational vehicle, and shipping industries.

After receiving a large order from a new customer, Plastics Unlimited needed a new, reliable trimming solution that could trim its patent-pending TEC material more quickly and produce better quality parts. KMT designed and built a custom JetTool waterjet trimming system equipped with AccuFind part sensing technology and CAMpro off-line programming software.

“Because we have AccuFind, we’re able to fixture the parts on the B side instead of the A side,” said Plastics Unlimited Design Manager Ben Clarke. “This allows us to trim the parts three times faster.”

Clarke was also impressed with CAMpro, saying, “CAMpro is definitely the way to program a robot; the machine is running production while you’re making changes to the robot program.”

To read the complete Plastics Unlimited Success Story, please [click here](#).

### **Visit KMT Robotic Solutions at the SPE European Thermoforming Conference 2008**

KMT Robotic Solutions will present its robotic trimming systems and state-of-the-art production software at the 6th Annual SPE European Thermoforming Conference in Berlin from April 3-5. The conference includes presentations from experts in the thermoforming industry, debates, and workshops about technical and commercial innovations. The event also provides industry professionals the unique opportunity to meet colleagues and customers from around the world.

For additional information about the SPE European Thermoforming Conference, please [click here](#).

### **Ask the Experts: KMT Answers Your Technical Questions**

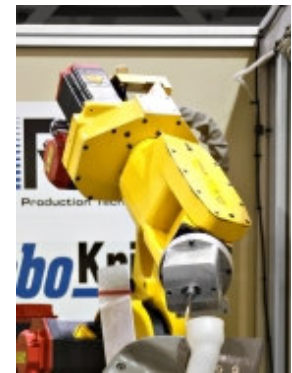
#### **Q: Why would I spend the extra money to buy diamonds for my Waterjet Trimming Nozzle when sapphires are so cheap?**

**A:** There can be debris passing through the system that may cause irreparable damage to a sapphire and which may only clog a diamond orifice. Upon removing the debris, the diamond can typically be returned to service for many more hours of production. It is typical to get thousands of production hours out of diamond orifices, as opposed to dozens of hours out of sapphire orifices.



#### **Q: Short of crashing it, how would I know if I'm causing undue stress to my router spindle?**

**A:** You can check the integrity of your tools and the spindle bearings with one simple test. Without a tool holder in the spindle and with the top of the spindle



**Welding**



**Material Handling**



parallel to earth, place a coin on top of the unit and turn on the spindle. The coin should not move. Now do this with a tool holder and production tool installed. If the coin moves or starts to bounce, something is causing excessive spindle vibration that will damage the bearings. To correct this, start by replacing your tool bit, and then the tool holder itself. If you can't find the cause of the vibration, [contact the KMT Service Department](#).

Do you have a technical question for KMT's Service or Waterjet Technical Support Teams? [Click here](#) to send it to us.

**KMT Robotic Solutions provides easy-to-use,  
flexible automation systems that improve productivity,  
increase safety and maximize quality.**

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