

Machine-tool maker opens S-E Asian tech centre Yamazaki Mazak seeks to expand presence in region

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GLOBAL machine-tool maker Yamazaki Mazak, seeking to expand its presence in Asia, yesterday launched its South-east Asian technology centre.

The facility, which aims to provide technology solutions and after-sales support to Yamazaki Mazak's Asian customers, comes onstream just as countries in the region are investing heavily in machine tools to improve their domestic infrastructure and to grow strategic sectors such as aerospace and oil and gas.

Teo Ser Luck, the Minister of State for Trade and Industry and a guest at yesterday's opening ceremony, said: "Asia accounted for more than 60 per cent of the global demand for machine tools in 2012. Industrial production in Asia is projected to grow at 5 per cent or more this year and the machine tool market in Asia is also growing in tandem to support this growth."

The technology centre has a 1,300 sq m showroom, making it four times its previous size. This space will house new high-end multi-tasking and axis machines meant for the production of machines for heavy industries.

The centre also has enhanced training and customer-support facilities for the employees and customers of the company.

Yamazaki Mazak has expanded its factory here to lift its production capacity by 60 per cent, putting it on track to raise its production from 80 to 130 machine units a month.

The higher production capacity was made possible by raising the level of automation in the company's manufacturing processes and shortening the delivery time of its products to its markets.

Mr Teo praised Yamazaki Mazak's productivity-enhancing investments, and pledged continued support for the precision-engineering sector through upgrading its talents and encouraging research and development.

He said: "While the government can seek to ensure the supporting measures are in place, the continued growth of the precision-engineering sector ultimately lies in the hands of the companies that comprise the sector."

Precision engineering sector to gain from regional demand

Published on Mar 20, 2014

By Mok Fei Fei

THE precision engineering sector has grown by leaps and bounds and will benefit from growing demand in the region, said Minister of State for Trade and Industry Teo Ser Luck.

A sign of the industry's growing importance is the increase in output, which has risen almost fourfold over the past 20 years to hit \$32 billion last year.

Mr Teo noted also that Singapore is poised to ride on the wave of demand for high-technology machine tools as developing nations in Asia invest to improve infrastructure. "Industrial production in Asia is projected to grow at 5 per cent or more this year... Singapore is strategically located in the heart of Asia, and well-positioned to capture growth opportunities in the region," he said yesterday at an industry event.

To ensure the momentum continues, he said the Government will continue to upgrade the workforce and boost research and development activity in the sector.

Mr Teo, who was speaking at the opening of Japanese manufacturer Yamazaki Mazak's facility in Jurong, said the industry's success would also depend on the private sector. Firms like Mazak are thus important, as they are committed to investing in its staff and facilities, he noted.

The company has expanded its facilities, the fifth time it has done so since setting up a sales and support office here in 1988. It has boosted its presence here by establishing production lines. The latest expansion saw its factory grow from 7,300 to 15,300 sq m. It also built a new technology centre four times bigger than its predecessor to showcase its products and provide comprehensive sales support across the region.

It declined to disclose the size of its investment here but the expansion will raise production capacity by 60 per cent. Its president Tomohisa Yamazaki said yesterday: "Our continuous investment over the last 23 years is the proof that we have been happy with our growth in Singapore."

Mazak has five global production facilities outside of Japan. It produces advanced machine tools used to make things like engines, for example, for sports car makers Lamborghini and Ferrari.

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Govt to support innovation in precision engineering sector

By Wong Siew Ying

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Minister of State for Trade and Industry Teo Ser Luck has said the government will continue to support innovation and upgrade the precision engineering sector's workforce.



SINGAPORE: The output of Singapore's precision engineering sector grew about four times in the last 20 years to reach S\$32 billion in 2013.

Speaking on Wednesday at the opening of Yamazaki Mazak Corporation's new Southeast Asia Technology Centre in Singapore, Minister of State for Trade and Industry Teo Ser Luck said the government would continue to support innovation and upgrade the sector's workforce.

Mr Teo said: "In recent years, we have placed special emphasis on deepening manpower and R&D capabilities in this sector. And these have helped the sector's value added to grow at an annual rate of 7.3 per cent over the last five years.

"Today, Singapore is home to an extensive network of global suppliers with deep engineering talent, advanced manufacturing capabilities and a strong record for higher quality and reliability."

Mazak, a leading machine tool manufacturer, has leveraged Singapore to support its global growth.

Apart from the new technology centre, it has also expanded its factory in Singapore.

Mazak said the expansion would result in a 60 percent increase in production capacity.

Currently, the company has 10 production facilities and 78 support bases worldwide.

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Yamazaki Mazak expands Singapore plant to beef up Asian presence

WATARU NAKAGAWA, Nikkei staff writer



Yamazaki Mazak's Singapore facility will be able to make 40% more machine tools a month.

SINGAPORE -- Yamazaki Mazak on Wednesday completed an upgrade of its Singapore factory, improving the facility's capabilities as a Southeast Asian hub for production and marketing of machine tools.

Monthly production capacity was increased by 40% to 130 units. It now makes about 70 units a month. "Compact lathes account for about 10-20% of this figure," says Executive Vice President Norihiko Shimizu. "We want to lift it to 30-40% soon alongside the production increase."

The Japanese firm will boost production of the Quick Turn Primos, a new specialized compact lathe for automotive and motorcycle components. It can be used for a wide range of parts, such as undercarriage components. Mass production started at the Singapore facility in November. Thailand and India are among the targeted markets.

The plant will serve as "an important base for our global strategy," says President Tomohisa Yamazaki.

Yamazaki Mazak also makes small and midsize lathes for autoparts in Dalian, China, but these are chiefly for Japan. Tools from the Singapore facility will be supplied worldwide, including to Europe, the Americas and other parts of Asia.

Machine tool makers in Taiwan and elsewhere have gone on the offensive lately with autoparts lathes. Their low prices have gradually eroded the dominance of the Japanese contingent in even the Asian market. "We'll gain market share using our strong points of high quality and service," Shimizu says.

One of Yamazaki Mazak's strategies is expanding the use of turnkey manufacturing, where tools are already ready to use when delivered to clients. It will supply products, mainly compact lathes, as systems, adding such components as conveyors or robots based on customer needs. The company aims to use this to boost added value and lift profit margins.

To support this strategy, Yamazaki Mazak quadrupled the area of the support base at the Singapore facility, allowing it to display and demonstrate large machines. It significantly widened the range of components stocked at the plant to improve customer support.

The company held a ceremony Wednesday to mark the completion of the expansion, with 300 attendees, including representatives from client firms. "We'll send the latest technology from here to the world," President Yamazaki said.

The facility, located in the industrial area of Jurong in western Singapore, came online in 1992.

Japanese machine tool makers bolstering Southeast Asian ops

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精實新聞 2014-03-20 09:11:12 記者 蔡承啟 報導



日本工具機大廠Yamazaki Mazak

19日發布新聞稿宣布，旗下新加坡工廠(見附圖)所進行的增產工程已順利完工，該座廠房月產能將自原先的80台大增約6成至130台的水準。

該座新加坡工廠於1996年開始正式量產工具機產品，主要生產製造車用零件所需的小型車床，所生產的工具機出口至東南亞、日本、歐洲、南/北美。

據日經指出，除新加坡工廠之外，Mazak美國工廠目前也正進行增產投資，預估待美國廠增產工程完工後，Mazak全球工具機月產能將達1,250台，將較原先(進行增產投資前)增加1-2成。

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