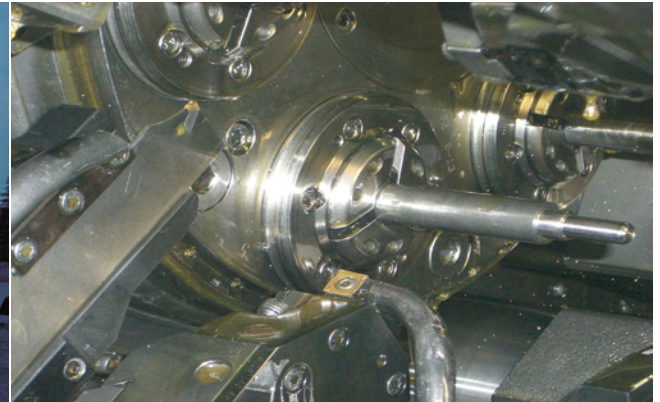




Vilardell Purtí, S.A Santpedor, Spain



▲ **Left:** The Vilardell Purtí premises near Barcelona, Spain. **Right:** One of the company's multi-spindle machining centres.

Turning a problem into a benefit

In 1962, Jaume Vilardell Purtí founded a family company devoted to the screw cutting business in Santpedor, Spain. During the 70s it began to specialize in the production of high quality, complex parts for several multinational companies.

In the 90s, the company implemented quality management systems based on the highest international standards and, as a result, they received quality and environmental certification. Vilardell Purtí, S.A now specializes in the production of complex and high precision turning parts.

The company's workforce of 180 people are highly qualified and technically skilled. They search for a 'total product' solution. Salvador Ávila, Area Head, CNC Machining, explains: "It means that we also take care of what surrounds the machining process, and we enlarge our product concept to incorporate that – technical assistance, service and so on." In order to maintain these high standards, the company relies on dedicated engineering, electrical and mechanical maintenance departments. Customers' needs are further satisfied by the use of customized machines, specially made within the factory.

Another cornerstone of the company's philosophy is that the customers' needs must be understood by

the supplier. Manuel Jándula, Area Head, CNC Machining at Vilardell Purtí, explains the four key areas of the chain in order to make this technique work. "The most important factor is a quick response rate to changes in the market and requirements of our customers," he says. "Then we need to think about the logistics of packing, transport and delivery, followed by the communication and documentation process. In order to develop possibilities for improvements, revisions of materials and processes must be done on a regular basis. We also offer to help our customers with the design and development stages of their manufacturing."

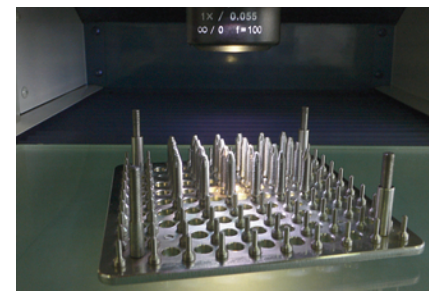
Chip control

Vilardell's relationship with Seco Tools started in 2006 at the BIE-HM-06 exhibition in Bilbao. The company was having chip control issues and Seco's representatives believed they could help. Francisco Ruiz, Sales Representative, Seco Tools recalls: "Vilardell Purtí was looking to increase productivity but

had trouble with controlling the chip and insert breakage and this caused the machine to stop. A management team went to the exhibition to try and find a solution. We proposed alternative tooling configurations that solved the problem."

One example of the tooling improvements implemented at Vilardell involved the pairing of a 150.10-20-2 toolholder with a CP500 insert that resulted in controlled chip breaking. With this grade, insert wear is easier to determine, making it easier to avoid breakage. "Prior to using this tooling configuration, the most pieces produced on this application was 1,000," says Francisco Ruiz. "That figure has now risen to 6,000 – a significant increase in productivity." ■

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▲ Precision components for the medical industry made by Vilardell Purtí.

