

PRESS RELEASE

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Torch cleaning: purely electrically powered

eReam sets new standards

In automated arc welding, torch cleaning affects both the cost and productivity of the whole process. To positively influence both factors, the eReam innovative torch cleaning system of SKS Welding Systems offers striking benefits. Its all-electric drives save considerable amounts of energy compared to pneumatic drives, are easier to control, comply with the applicable safety regulations and offer good monitoring capabilities. Based on the experiences and results gained from tests performed with pilot customers, SKS could further optimize eReam. Currently, the company seated in Kaiserslautern, Germany, manufactures the system in two standard versions.

An easy-to-handle cleaning of the gas nozzles, reliable operation and system integration are among the basic features of eReam. Low energy costs are another asset of the system. Compared with pneumatically driven torch cleaning devices, the cost of energy is much lower: for 50 (1,000) cleaning cycles per day, for instance, they are only 11% (1.5%)! The same ratios apply to the CO₂ emissions in connection with the system's operation.

The fact that the milling unit, the spraying unit, and the optional wire cutter are electrically driven also means that there are measurable and controllable electrical values. This allows for the monitoring of the safety-relevant functions, rendering the safety devices and precautions redundant that are required in the welding cell for operation with compressed air. These are sometimes more expensive than the torch cleaning station itself. Also the costs and the complexity of the supply of compressed air are no longer required. As the functions of eReam are digitally/electronically controlled without any additional components or software, they are easy to integrate into common welding robot controllers and PLCs of automation systems.

The cleaning process is program-controlled. First, the robot moves the torch to the eReam unit. Centric clamping avoids damage to the gas nozzle. The material removal during milling is dependent on force using the mill torque as a control variable. Compared to the travel-dependent and often off-center milling with air-driven tools, this saves material, time and energy – and avoids errors. While a pneumatic

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system provides no feedback if a milling unit is jammed and stops, eReam is able to identify this status. It moves the milling head back and restarts the process.

The electronically controlled pump ensures that only the amount of anti-spatter liquid needed is sprayed on the torch. Instead of manually refilling the anti-spatter liquid, the operator changes only an externally-mounted container. This is another step towards a clean welding cell. For users, who desire an electrically driven wire cutter, this version is optionally available. With both versions, SKS is setting new standards in the field of torch cleaning with the proven milling method.

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For more information, please visit www.sks-welding.com.
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Images:



1: The electrically driven and electronically controlled eReam torch cleaning system sets completely new standards.

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2: The eReam torch cleaning system offers substantial savings in energy consumption, higher productivity, lower costs, and easy compliance with safety regulations (for demonstration purposes shown open with the torch inserted).

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