# Zoerkler Gears invests in technology to enhance drive system manufacturing



Zoerkler Gears, a manufacturer renowned for producing precision drive systems primarily for the aerospace and automotive sectors, has made a significant technological investment by incorporating a VL 6 vertical pick-up turning machine from EMAG into its operations. This move highlights Zoerkler's unwavering dedication to innovation and quality in the sphere of complex drive component manufacturing.

With nearly 120 years of operational history, Zoerkler has transitioned from a modest family-owned mechanical workshop to a leader in manufacturing advanced drive systems and gears. The company initially specialised in gear cutting for construction machinery and has since evolved to focus on high-performance applications. Managing director Bernhard Wagner reflects on the company's journey: “We expanded continuously over the following decades,” he stated, discussing their growth from a mere 1800 m² production area in Vienna to an expansive 8000 m² facility in Burgenland since the move in 2008. This substantial growth allows for the creation of high-quality drive systems and precision parts.

Currently employing a workforce of around 100, including 15 highly qualified design engineers, Zoerkler's production team plays a critical role in producing precision components. "Our drive systems can be found in high-performance vehicles that belong to the absolute top class of the automotive industry," Wagner confirmed, emphasising the company’s commitment to servicing demanding sectors, including aviation, where reliability under extreme conditions is paramount.

Zoerkler has positioned itself to tackle future-oriented “built-to-spec” projects, which involve detailed customer specifications at every development stage. Wagner elaborated on this process, stating, “First, we create a comprehensive layout. Our engineers develop, design and manufacture the drive system down to the smallest detail.” This intricate approach underscores their capacity to undertake complete project cycles within their facilities.

The decision to integrate the VL 6 machine stemmed from the company's need for advanced automation solutions capable of machining heavier workpieces with precision. As Wagner noted, “The VL 6 enables us to produce complex components with excellent dimensional accuracy, even with frequent changes of workpieces for our small series.” This machine's design facilitates higher accuracies for workpieces and enables the company to efficiently handle small batch processing.

The integrated hard turning and milling functionalities of the VL 6 allow for multiple machining processes to be executed in a single setup, significantly enhancing both precision and production efficiency. Wagner highlighted the advantages of the machine's automated capabilities, noting, “We can often run the machine autonomously in the second and third shifts, which significantly increases our productivity.”

While transitioning to the vertical design of the VL 6 presented a challenge, Wagner expressed confidence in his team's adaptability: “The advantages of the vertical design...were obvious to us. We achieve significantly higher accuracies when clamping and turning the workpieces.” He praised the professionalism with which his engineers adapted to the new machining logic, illustrating adaptability in the face of evolving manufacturing processes.

Zoerkler's production capabilities encompass various techniques, including turning, milling, grinding, and gear cutting. The introduction of the VL 6 complements existing equipment and validates the company’s capabilities in both manufacturing and testing complex drive systems for a wide range of applications, including e-mobility sectors.

Central to Zoerkler’s operations is a commitment to quality assurance, which is meticulously integrated into their production processes. A sophisticated QA system enables real-time monitoring and documentation, significantly contributing to their reputation for reliability. “Our aim is to further strengthen our position as a technology leader and reliable partner in our core markets,” Wagner asserts, revealing the company's forward-looking strategies as it strives to maintain its competitive edge.

By consistently embracing innovation and investing in cutting-edge technologies, Zoerkler Gears affirms its commitment to high-quality manufacturing, preparing itself to meet the challenges of an ever-evolving mobility landscape. The incorporation of the VL 6 machine exemplifies its aim to enhance operational efficiency, thereby reinforcing its prestige in the global drive systems industry.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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