

# Chapter News

## THE WESTERN ONTARIO CHAPTER

On May 20, 2010, CTMA members had the opportunity to tour Héroux Devtek's first-class facility in Kitchener, Ontario. This is where they manufacture landing gear and aerospace structural components for their clients, including major customers like Boeing, Goodrich Aerospace, Bombardier, Messier Dowty,



Ralph Schippanoski of XL Tool Inc., Chair of CTMA's Western Ontario Chapter (right), thanks Joe Kus of Heroux Devtek (left) for the excellent tour of their first-class aerospace parts manufacturing facility in Kitchener, Ontario.

Embraer and Airbus (notably several components for the new Airbus A380 800 passenger jet).

The company has over 45 machines in its Kitchener facility, including seven brand new SNK 5-axis milling machines used for the major components of the Boeing 787 and Airbus A320 programs. Héroux Devtek has a corporate mandate to track Overall Equipment Efficiency (OEE) at all of its plants and all of its machines in North America. The tour highlighted Héroux Devtek's world-leading capabilities with demonstrations of real-time machine monitoring and control with OEE+DNC and the interconnection of these tools with the corporate network as demonstrated by representatives from Memex Automation.

There is a technological shift going on out on the shop floor as manufacturing machines are finally being integrated into the corporate IT network via Ethernet connections. This revolution allows machines to communicate directly with corporate information



David McPhail (right) and John Rattray (left) of Memex Automation are thanked by Ralph Schippanoski for their fascinating presentation on "Shop Floor to Top Floor Information ... In Real-Time".

systems and is generating big benefits for companies by increasing their efficiency of operations. Linking machines directly to the corporate network can yield lots of valuable information about actual shop floor operations. Memex Automation's presentation showed how this breakthrough approach to managing the shop floor can yield significant gains in productivity.

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Members found the tour and Memex Automation's after-dinner presentation to be extremely interesting and many comments were made about the apparent orderliness of the work flow, as well as the excellent machine utilization, set-up times and profitability of the monitoring system. ■

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