

Press release

Schröder presents fully automated loading and unloading concept

Automation made easy

Wessobrunn-Forst (Germany), October 20, 2026 – With a gantry system for the MAK 4 Evolution UD folding machine, the Schröder Group is presenting a flexible automation solution for all machines equipped with the Advanced Handling System (AHS). The system is designed for easy operation, high productivity and the cost-effective implementation of automated manufacturing processes. Unmanned production, for example during late or night shifts, requires no robot and can be programmed entirely via the machine control.

Two suction frames positioned to the right and left of the machine load the sheets into the machine, then unload and stack the finished bent sheet metal parts. The actual bending process on the MAK 4 Evolution UD is already fully automated thanks to the AHS with rotating suction plate back gauge and bidirectional folding beam. The portal solution can be individually configured for the efficient bending of small, medium and large batch sizes. Compared with a robot-based solution, the portal offers several advantages: it is significantly more cost-effective, much easier to program and can be switched immediately to manual machine operation. This combines the benefits of full automation with the flexibility of manual operation, for example for prototypes or individual parts, in a single system.

High degree of flexibility

“With the gantry system for the MAK 4 Evolution UD, we have created a solution for unmanned production that requires significantly less investment and programming effort than companies would typically need when aiming to increase the utilization of their folding machine without additional personnel,” explains Thomas Ostermair, Sales Manager at Hans Schröder Maschinenbau GmbH.

“Of course, we are also happy to implement customized solutions, for example if bent parts are to be transferred to downstream processes via a conveyor. One of our key advantages is our in-house software development, which allows the entire automation process to be integrated directly into the machine control.”

Depending on customer requirements, the automation solution can be flexibly adapted to different lengths and sheet thicknesses. Customer-specific configurations and integration with other machines equipped with the AHS can also be implemented very easily using this concept.

Further development of the AHS

The Advanced Handling System has also been specifically optimized as part of the machine's ongoing development. A narrower manipulator travel path and additional integrated, robust brushes extend the system's handling capabilities, particularly for narrower components. These parts can now be guided securely and moved with high precision.

As a result, an even broader range of parts can be reliably picked up, positioned, manipulated and bent. For users, the further development of the AHS primarily means greater flexibility, a wider variety of parts and additional application possibilities in day-to-day production.

Automatically bent boxes

The MAK 4 Evolution UD has a clamping beam stroke of 1,090 mm and, based on the sheet formats that can be handled by the AHS, a wide variety of part dimensions can be produced. Depending on the machine version, sheet sizes range from 500 × 500 mm up to 4,000 × 2,000 mm or 3,000 × 1,500 mm. Sheets weighing up to 300 kg can be processed.

Schröder expects the automation option to be of particular interest to manufacturers of control cabinets, panels and enclosures, furniture and refrigerators. Even smaller batch sizes can be processed fully automatically without extensive preparation. Detection of the pallet position and the sheet metal blanks placed on it enables fast and uncomplicated product changeovers.

The MAK 4 Evolution UD with gantry solution will be presented live for the first time at EuroBLECH 2026 (20–23 October 2026, Hall 11, Stand A48, Deutsche Messe, Hanover).

Available images

The following images are available for download in printable format at:

<https://kk.htcm.de/press-releases/schroeder/>



Image source: Schröder Group

With the gantry solution for the MAK 4 Evolution UD folding machine, Schröder enables the fully automated production of sheet metal enclosures.

About Schröder Group

The Schröder Group consists of Hans Schröder Maschinenbau GmbH, which is located in Wessobrunn-Forst, Germany, SCHRÖDER-FASTI Technologie GmbH, located in Wermelskirchen, Germany and the SMU GmbH, located in Leinburg-Weißenbrunn.

Founded in 1949, Hans Schröder Maschinenbau GmbH unifies traditional and modern approaches in machine building: Successfully managed as a quality and customer-oriented, family-owned company, Hans Schröder Maschinenbau is specialized in the development of modern machine concepts for bending and cutting sheet metal.

The successful integration of the Fasti Company in 2006 and its worldwide presence make the Schröder Group one of today's leading providers of machines for bending, cutting, beading, flanging, and circular bending all types of sheet metal. The company's precision machines range from proven solutions for craftsmen to innovative, high-performance machines for automatic industrial production processes. 2021 the Schröder Group was expanded by the tool manufacturer SMU GmbH. Overall, the Schröder Group currently employs more than 300 people at various locations at home and abroad.

Further information is available at <https://www.schroedergroup.eu/en/>.

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