

Motch's monstrous machine tool

\$4 million, 225-ton piece of equipment testament to Euclid company's turnaround

By DAVID PRIZINSKY

Motch Corp. of Euclid is back in the business of machine tool manufacturing in a big way.

The company, with roots here going back to 1904, is putting the finishing touches on a 225-ton precision grinder that will be shipped this month to a machinery parts manufacturer in the South. That's 450,000 pounds of machine.

It will take nine flat-bed tractor-trailers to haul the computer-controlled grinder to its customer, said Motch president and chief executive officer Michael J. Wicken. Mr. Wicken said a confidentiality agreement prevented him from revealing the name of the customer.

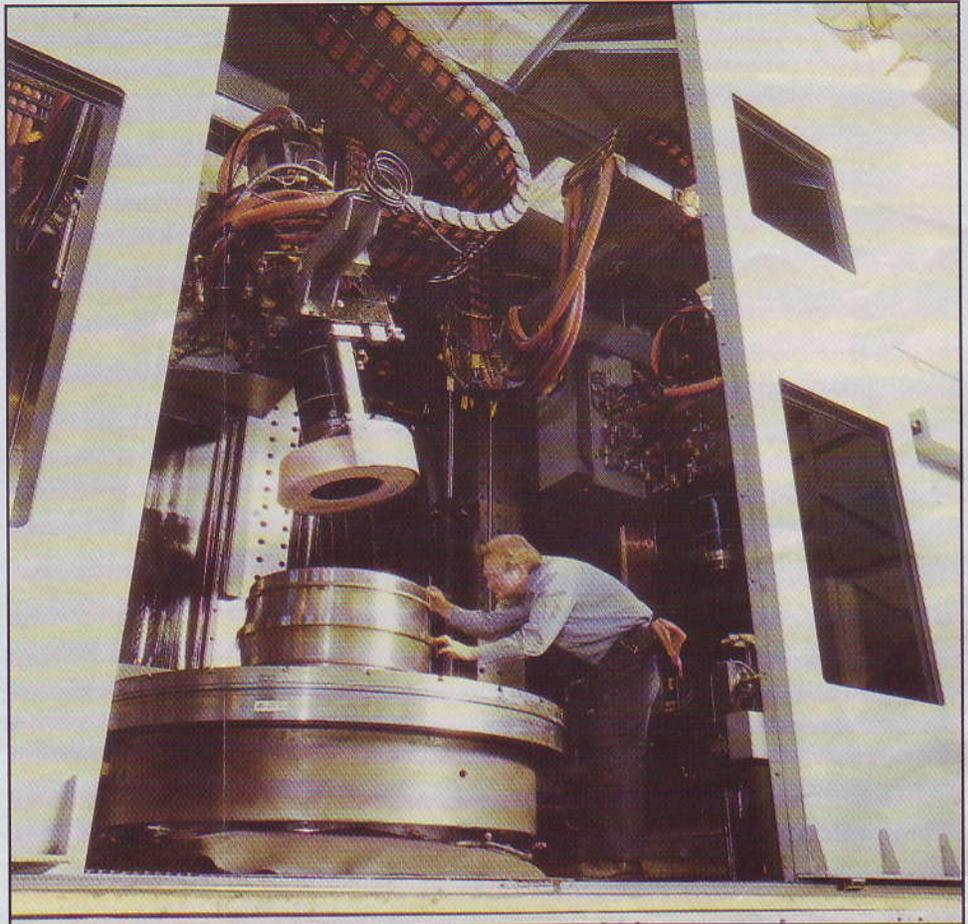
"The machine will be torn down into six components, the largest one weighing about 150,000 pounds," he said.

Mr. Wicken said workers will begin disassembling the grinder this week to prepare it for shipment before Christmas. Tim Herbert, Motch's vice president of manufacturing, estimated the freight cost at \$25,000 to \$30,000.

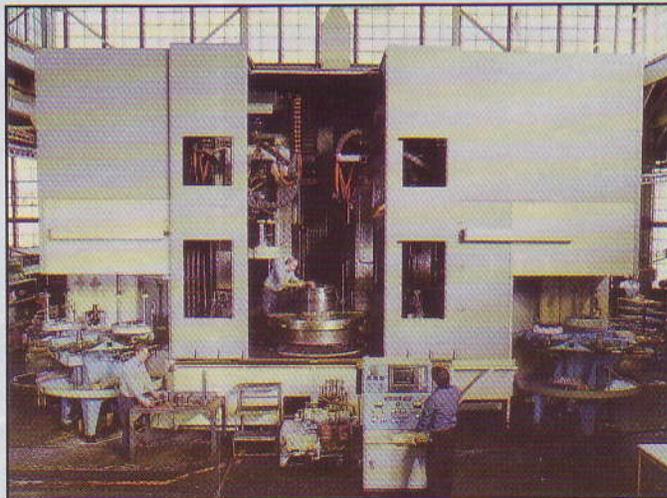
Motch board member Charles A. "Arnie" de la Porte said the computerized grinder cost about \$4 million to build and took Motch about 18 months to complete. Motch officials would not disclose the machine's selling price.

Mr. de la Porte said Motch gradually has been increasing its production capability since it was acquired in 1989 by Pittler Maschinenfabrik of Langen, Germany. Motch's previous owner, Oerlikon-Buehler, a Swiss company, had planned to turn Motch

MANUFACTURING



JANINE BENTIVEGNA



Motch Corp. employees work on the 225-ton precision grinder that the company will ship to a client this month at a cost of between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

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