



⊕ Die Change is as Easy as Turning a Page

Quick Die Change Multiplies Production Capacity

A process often imposes a great impact on the result. What makes a process become a stepping-stone to a good result? Time is the key.

Based on teamwork, quick die change is a way of improving work efficiency. Quick die change has multiple advantages, including shortening the die changeover time, improving product quality, reducing inventory, lowering labor costs, and extending the life of dies. As a high-speed, efficient processing instrument, quick die change is surely relevant to the competitiveness of enterprises, especially under the production trend of small quantity large variety, and short lead time.

In 1981, MIRDC introduced the concept of quick die change from Japan and received support from research projects of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Since then, quick die change has been applied to the R&D of system and machine equipment. Through this application, quick die change has gradually turned single die change engineering into system engineering, and even auto die change engineering. As a result, quick die change has become the critical technology to boost utilization rates and productivity. Taiwan was thus led into an era of quick die change.

However, it was a difficult task to implement this technology in the industry at that time since the operators had to learn the new technology and overcome time pressure. In addition, making big changes in current factory space might be necessary

for relocating needed machinery equipment. Meanwhile, the high costs of buying machinery equipment from abroad is another consideration for manufacturers when moving forward.

Fortunately, industries with large-scale die change engineering, such as forging, casting and stamping, were quite interested in quick die change. MIRDC then transferred its self-developed auto die change system to manufacturers and assisted them in building technical platforms as well. Through this, more than twenty manufacturers, including Kwang Yang Motor, Sanyang Industry, OZE Industrial Corp., and Globe Union Industrial Corp, were able to compete with other low-cost companies.

Quick die change technology has already attained a mature stage in Taiwan. In the future, it may be feasible for Taiwan's manufacturers to enter into technical cooperation with China or Southeast Asian countries. Cooperating with equipment manufacturers is also another recommended way in order to include the quick die change system at the stage design of equipment and machines. In this way, time and money can be saved since no extra procurement of systems or machine equipment will be necessary.