











DIGITAL MANUFACTURING

Marking Milestones

Forms and Gears celebrates 50 years of operations by launching the latest version of its award-winning Industry 4.0 Product, SmartFix 4.0, at IMTEX FORMING 2022...



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his year marks the 50th year of one of Asia's oldest and best-known fixture building company, Forms and Gears. A pioneer on the fixture building front, Forms and Gears has been at the forefront of several landmark projects in India and abroad for over five decades now. At IMTEX FORMING 2022, the company is showcasing the latest version of SmartFix 4.0 – an award-winning Industry 4.0 solution for Fixtures, Work Holding, and Special Equipment. SmartFix 4.0 was awarded the prestigious Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Innovation Award lately.

Knowing More about SmartFix 4.0

Reji Varghese, Managing Director, Forms and Gears, says, "What started as an Industry 4.0 solution for Fixtures has now been expanded to enable intelligence on legacy machines, test rigs, automation, special equipment, etc. For one of the world's leading electronic companies, we enabled even ordinary nut runners with intelligence which would give data on missed operations, screw alignment, torque, operator efficiency analytics, etc., and communicate this in real-time with the operator." "SmartFix 4.0 has grown over the past year both in depth and breadth. While we continued to contribute to deliver analytical insights to industry leaders, the cross-disciplinary effort of design, hardware, and software helped us conceive new use cases. The machines at our unit at Forms and Gears are now connected with SmartFix 4.0, allowing us to gain better insights into our production metrics as well. We hope that at this IMTEX, we will be able to expand the boundaries of Smart-Fix 4.0 to include applications in industry segments like aerospace,

EV and battery manufacturing, railways and defense, textile and agricultural equipment manufacturing, medical equipment, electronics, semiconductor equipment, and renewable energy," he adds. Forms and Gears has two state-ofthe-art factories at Guindy, in the heart of Chennai, housing one of the best-equipped private tool room facilities in the country. Its second factory in Guindy was set up in 2021 with a battery of machining centers from Mazak, Fanuc, and DMG Mori along with CNC Turning Centers, Grinders, Temperature-controlled inspection facilities equipped with Zeiss CMMs, and a whole range of other inspection equipment. The company now employs 220 engineers in India. Thailand, Vietnam, and Brazil and exports fixtures to nine countries across the globe.