

Large-scale “Mazak iSMART Factory” Two production bases in Minokamo integrated by digital network

Yamazaki Mazak Corporation has announced that the two production bases in Minokamo, Gifu Prefecture - Minokamo Plant 1 and Minokamo Plant 2, will be integrated by a computer network into a large-scale “Mazak iSMART Factory™”. The goal of this advanced manufacturing concept is to increase productivity by 50%.

Minokamo Plant 1, the production facility for the Mazak flagship series the Integrex, is the largest Yamazaki Mazak factory and began operation in 1983. Minokamo Plant 2 started operation in 2006 and produces a wide variety of small to medium size machine tools.

Today the machine tool business environment is changing rapidly with increasing diversification of market requirements. In response to this situation and in order to implement a system that will produce a wide variety of components in small lot sizes with the maximum efficiency, we have decided to upgrade these two production bases into a large-scale smart factory by integrating them in a comprehensive computer network utilizing the most advanced IT and IIoT technology available.

Yamazaki Mazak will upgrade all Mazak manufacturing facilities to a “Mazak iSMART Factory™” following our policy of continuous factory evolution. We have just announced that the “Mazak iSMART Factory™”, has started operation at the Yamazaki Mazak Corporation Headquarters located in Oguchi, Japan. The new Minokamo large-scale “Mazak iSMART Factory™” will be approximately five times larger than the total floor space of the Oguchi headquarter’s factory and will utilize state-of the art IIoT equipment, Big data and AI technology to realize improved productivity.

The new Minokamo “Mazak iSMART Factory™” will reorganize the two plants and eliminate duplicate departments and functions. Minokamo Plant 1 will be used for assembly and Minokamo Plant 2 will be used for machining. Other functions such as administration will be integrated for both plants and will be located at Minokamo Plant 1.

By this functional integration, the new Minokamo “Mazak iSMART Factory™” will realize a large-scale constant temperature assembly plant designed with environmental considerations. By integrating these facilities in a computer network and utilizing advanced technologies such as Big Data, IIoT and AI, overall production will be optimized making it possible to respond to customers’ requirements as quickly as possible.

The goal of the new Minokamo “Mazak iSMART Factory™” is to realize 50% higher productivity.

The reorganization and integration of the Minokamo factories is scheduled for completion in 2019, the year that Yamazaki Mazak will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

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Information in this press release is current at the time of publication.

This information is subject to change without notice.