ON THE LEVEL

Andreas Hellriegel, ARKU's sales director, outlines the company's strategic focus, latest investments and new machinery innovations to ISMR.

ISMR SAYS:

"ARKU stormed into Blechexpo 2025 in Stuttgart with new deburring and edge-rounding machinery, upgraded machine-tool functionality and AI-assisted control options."

Left: Deburred and with rounded edges: ARKU's customers want their parts processed (bottom), not burr-covered and sharp-edged (top).

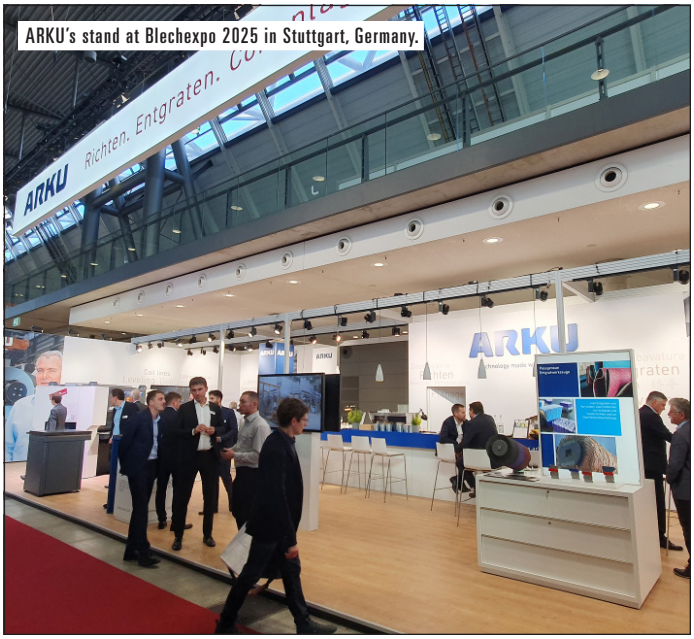
Andreas Hellriegel, Sales Director, ARKU.

ARKU, founded in 1928 as a family-owned company, is a global specialist in roller levellers, coil lines and deburring technology. It offers an extensive range of high-capacity and precision levellers, as well as deburring and edge-rounding machines. This extensive portfolio is completed with the addition of parts handling solutions for levelling and deburring machines.

With its headquarters in Baden-Baden, Germany, and ISO-certified facilities in Cincinnati (USA) and Kunshan (China), the company operates in over 30 countries. ARKU also offers toll processing services in three levelling and deburring centres in Baden-Baden (Germany), Cincinnati (USA) and, since January 2025, in Greenville (USA) with its latest machinery. It recently set up a 3000 sq.m. second production plant in Bühl, 15 kilometres from its main site in Haueneberstein.

ARKU machines are used wherever sheet metal is processed. It provides engineering expertise to various manufacturing industries including automotive; railway equipment; shipbuilding; construction and furniture, as well as laser job shops and others.

The company presented a range of innovative levelling and deburring technology at Blechexpo 2025 in Stuttgart, Germany, this October. ISMR caught up with Andreas Hellriegel, ARKU's sales director, on its stand at the trade show to find out more……



ARKU's stand at Blechexpo 2025 in Stuttgart, Germany.

A part deburring demonstration on ARKU's stand.

New machinery investments

ARKU stormed into Blechexpo with new deburring and edge rounding machinery, upgraded machine-tool functionality and AI-assisted control options.

The company's EdgeBreaker® 6000 deburring machine for laser-cut and punched parts, on display at its booth at Blechexpo, also handles edge rounding and surface finishing with the flexibility needed by laser job shops. The new EdgeBreaker® 3000 NEXT was also demonstrated removing laser burrs from the top and bottom sides of a part (double-sided deburring) in a single pass and featuring the AI-assisted ARKU Wizard control.

"We have made a lot of machinery improvements and innovations such as our new control system or two-sided deburring and heavy parts (2mm radius) processing. We have also added automation functions so that laser-cut and punched parts on deburring machines or levellers can now also be loaded and unloaded. Last but not least, we have added more power to our FlatMaster® precision levelling machines," Andreas Hellriegel, ARKU's sales director, told *ISMR*.

"Just recently, we introduced the new EdgeBreaker® 3000 FIBER, specifically developed for the deburring and edge rounding of fibre laser-cut parts. It combines a powerful grinding belt for double-sided deburring to remove even the hardest burrs. The machine also includes specialised rounding blocks which smoothly round all the edges," he continued.

Innovation is the company's watchword. It offers standard as well as customised solutions.

"Every development aims to improve our customers' processes, increase their efficiency and give them a competitive edge so that they succeed ahead of the competition," outlined Andreas Hellriegel.

EdgeBreaker® 6000

ARKU presented its EdgeBreaker® 6000 deburring machine for laser-cut and punched parts at Blechexpo 2025. In addition to deburring, it also handles edge rounding and surface finishing in a single pass.

"The EdgeBreaker® 6000 can round sheet metal edges more uniformly than any other process. A particularly helpful feature for operators is the intelligent Wizard control option: based on just a few parameters, it selects the right processing tools and optimal feed rate automatically," ARKU explained.

ARKU's portfolio also includes deburring machines for fibre-cut and flame-cut parts.

The ARKU Wizard control.

EdgeBreaker® 3000 NEXT

On the stand of ARKU's partner Teqram at Blechexpo, trade show visitors could watch autonomous deburring of laser-cut parts with the new EdgeBreaker® 3000 NEXT.

"The system removes laser burrs from both the top and bottom sides in a single pass, cutting processing time and costs by up to 50%. This new deburring machine is also equipped with the ARKU Wizard operating software, like almost all our levelling and deburring machines. At the push of a button, it determines the optimal settings for each individual part—regardless of the operator´s experience. In times of skilled labour shortages, this is a crucial advantage," said ARKU.

At Blechexpo, the Wizard was demonstrated live by ARKU on the EdgeBreaker® 6000 and the FlatMaster® 55 levelling machine.

Before-and-after levelling comparison: The improved flatness and stress relief of the processed part are clearly visible.

Part levelling on the FlatMaster®.

Strategic and technical focus

"We want to be the first stop for sheet-metal levelling and deburring for sales and services. At our levelling and deburring centres, customers can see everything we offer around sheet metal levelling, deburring, automation etc. We also do contract work for customers which is very popular, especially in North America where we have opened a second centre for levelling work in Greenville, South Carolina. Customers often go on to buy one of our machines afterwards," continued Andreas Hellriegel.

ARKU has also invested in India and expanded its sales and service capabilities in Pune. It will be exhibiting at the IMTEX trade show in Bangalore early next year. ARKU also considers Southeast Asia, and Japan particularly, as interesting markets and exhibited at MF Tokyo this year.

"We also see growth opportunities in particular market sectors, such as defence, and technologies such as AI and automation for easy operation as well as in areas such as service. We have developed service partnerships in different countries and continue to develop these. Our team is very happy with customer feedback here in Stuttgart. It shows that we've developed the right products, meeting real needs and creating real value. It's exciting to see that our major investments in innovation are truly paying off," added Andreas Hellriegel.

Market trends and challenges

Hellriegel also highlighted various global market trends and challenges to *ISMR*.

"From our point of view, the continuous growth of the fibre laser market has been good for us as our machines are designed to remove

ARKU coil line technology

ARKU develops and supplies coil processing lines with stable process control for industrial sheet metal processing. Its product portfolio includes coil-fed laser blanking systems, press feeding lines for integration into press lines, coil preparation systems for roll forming applications to avoid cycle time losses and custom-designed, cut-to-length lines for coil material.

ARKU's coil laser system, a joint development with TRUMPF, enables sheet metal fabricators to flexibly process medium batch sizes directly from coil.

ARKU also offers coil line retrofit services (upgrades and overhauls) to its customers.


ARKU coil line technology.

Precision levelling: the FlatMaster®

At Blechexpo 2025, ARKU demonstrated, with its FlatMaster® levelling machine just how critical post-cut levelling is to the quality of sheet-metal parts. Unevenness and internal stresses caused during cutting can be eliminated.

"The FlatMaster® levellers bring sheet metal from 0.1-60mm thick into a flat, low-stress state. This precision levelling technology adapts flexibly to a wide range of requirements, from thin-gauge sheet metal to heavy plate," said ARKU.

The part, sheet or plate is subjected to a series of alternating bends in the hydraulic machine. The material is formed quickly, allowing stamped, laser-cut or plasma-cut parts to be levelled in seconds.

Andreas Hellriegel (Sales Director, ARKU) and Alexandra Schuldt (Marketing Director, ARKU) next to the ARKU Wizard control at Blechexpo 2025 in Stuttgart.

A demonstration on the FlatMaster® levelling machine on ARKU's stand.

burrs from fibre laser-cut parts. We also see the continued use of more high-tensile material for deburring and levelling. In a climate of labour shortages, our customers are increasingly asking us to make the machines easier to use, so have made our controls as user-friendly as possible. Automation will be the next step for many of them," he explained.

However, he also pointed out the effect that tariffs have had on global supply chains.

"Tariffs have also made the global economy more challenging and distorted global supply chains. This year has been turbulent for the industry—the blanket setting of tariffs has led to uncertainty for our customers and partners across the world. The U.S. is an important market for us—we have two local companies there to provide support," he told *ISMR*.

"Unfortunately, the automotive industry is still in difficulty (particularly in Germany, where we have a lot of customers). The Chinese market, although we still sell machines there, is also becoming harder to access as the Chinese are increasingly using their own machinery. However, ARKU's credo is to create its own economic momentum, particularly when times are challenging," he continued.

An eye on sustainability

With its ESG approach (Environment, Social & Governance), ARKU is pursuing a holistic concept to ensure that its actions have a long-term positive impact on the environment, make a contribution to society and promote entrepreneurial thinking.

"We are increasing the energy efficiency of our machines, processes and sites, promoting the electrification of mobility and focusing on renewable energies. We are reducing our carbon footprint through a range of measures such as continuously reducing our energy consumption and carbon emissions. Our German sites use 100% green electricity, 20% of which is generated by our own PV systems. This includes sustainable and energy-saving devices and practices at our headquarters at Baden-Baden in Germany e.g. solar roof panels, electric cars and electric forklifts," confirmed Andreas Hellriegel.

"We build reliable machinery that offer long lifetimes, to save resources. Our levellers, for example, can operate for decades. Their rapid operation saves energy along with servo-hydraulic control systems and a range of other energy-saving features," he added.

ARKU is also increasingly focused on retrofits. Through targeted upgrades, existing coil lines can be modernised in a cost-effective and sustainable way. This leads to increased performance, energy efficiency and automation — all with significantly lower investment compared to new equipment.

"Requests for upgrades and overhauls for coil lines have increased. We have therefore built an experienced team dedicated specifically to modernising and retrofitting coil lines. This not only extends the service life of production equipment but also allows existing machines to be used more safely, productively and efficiently. It's a real contribution to sustainability and cost-effectiveness – especially when a new investment is not viable, but production conditions are shifting," continued Hellriegel.

"Generally speaking, parts cut from coil generate significantly less waste compared to cutting from standard-sized sheets. This is the case, for example, for coil-fed laser blanking lines. By eliminating fixed format limitations, sheet-metal parts can be nested more efficiently, enabling up to 30% material savings for large-format components," he concluded. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE

Meet ARKU at IMTEX in Bengaluru, India (**21-25 January 2026**) on stand #A113 in Hall 4.

www.arku.com

ARKU retrofit services for coil lines.