



up grade

Journal for customers, employees and partners

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■ LASCO TRENDS

'Innovate Manufacturing'

In September the leading trade fair for metalworking and production technology 'EMO 2025' will take place in Hanover. Among other issues, LASCO will be presenting the innovative 'Bin-Picking' loading system for forging blanks.

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■ LASCO NEWS

Precise clamping concept

A new clamping concept with modular force application and robust wedge technology will pave the way for more efficient set-up, higher process quality and lower susceptibility to faults in forging operations. This concept was developed by Fraunhofer IWU with LASCO participating in the project.

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■ LASCO PRACTICE

Powerful duo

The Kito-Crosby Group has upgraded their machine park at the production site in Creadley Heath, West Midlands, by two LASCO hydraulic die forging hammers. Thanks to excellent preparation and procedures, the new duo was able to start operating well ahead of schedule.

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Stay strong in times of change!

The world of metal forming is changing faster than ever before. Automated machines, digital process chains, artificial intelligence – what was just a vision yesterday is now often reality. And tomorrow, the challenges will continue to grow? Maybe this is exactly where opportunities arise.

Rising energy and material costs, stricter CO₂ reduction targets, a shortage of skilled workers and new materials – all of these factors are forcing companies to modernise their production processes. The good news is that there are solutions. Intelligent automation, data-based process analyses and smart maintenance systems create efficiency, ensure quality and increase competitiveness.

But technical progress is not an automatic process. It requires trust, the courage to change and, above all, orientation. For example: What is predictable? What has proven itself in practice? What brings real added value?

As a long-standing partner to the metal forming industry, we at LASCO understand these questions – and we know how crucial the answers are.

We have been supplying technologies that set standards for over 160 years. Today, our solutions combine robust mechanical engineering with digital intelligence. But even the best system is of little use without the people who use it wisely. That's why we don't just work on machines, but also on perspectives: networked, forward-looking and practical.

Together with our customers, we are shaping change. And in doing so, we remain what we have always been: powerful, reliable and one step ahead.

Yours, Lothar Bauersachs
Chairman of the LASCO Management Board

LASCO TRENDS + MARKETS



Visit LASCO at the EMO Hannover 2025

'INNOVATE MANUFACTURING'

From September 22 to 26, 2025, EMO Hannover, the world's most important trade fair for metalworking and production technology, invites visitors to its 50th anniversary at the world's largest exhibition center.

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On the theme 'Innovate Manufacturing' current key topics such as automation, sustainability, digitalization, artificial intelligence, and additive manufacturing will be brought to life in a practical way.



As a technology partner to the forging and forming industry, LASCO will be presenting high-quality innovations at its booth, including a completely new 'Bin-Picking' loading system for forging blanks that significantly increases efficiency, process reliability, and the degree of automation. We will be demonstrating how modern plant solutions contribute to increasing productivity, energy efficiency, and resource saving.

In an increasingly volatile market environment, the targeted use of technology is becoming strategically important. The metal forming industry is under enormous pressure to adapt in the face of fluctuating raw material prices, geopolitical uncertainties and growing sustainability requirements. Investing now lays the foundation for stable processes, resilient supply chains and long-term compet-

itiveness. EMO offers the perfect platform to learn about pioneering solutions and gain concrete inspiration for your own production strategy.

Trade visitors from over 130 countries – including decision-makers, engineers and production managers – will enjoy live demonstrations, in-depth technical insights and individual application discussions at our stand. This will allow you to directly experience how our solutions optimise existing processes and unlock new potential.

This is why you shouldn't miss LASCO at EMO Hannover:

- **Technical Innovation:** The latest developments in machine loading – smarter, more modular, future-proof.
- **Practical relevance:** We demonstrate solutions that can be implemented directly in your business..
- **Professional exchange:** Meet our experts for individual discussions about your challenges.
- **Networking and trends:** Take advantage of this globally unique industry platform to learn about new approaches and strengthen your competitiveness.

Visit us in **hall 13, stand C64** and be inspired by latest LASCO technology!

Innovative system for die clamping in practical testing

CLAMPING FORCES UNDER CONTROL

As part of the IGF project „sGs – Sensitive Die Clamping System“, Fraunhofer IWU developed an innovativ approach to analysing and optimising die clamping during forging – with concrete practical benefits for users. LASCO was involved as a inspiring project partner.

Background: So far the clamping of forging dies has been largely an experience-based process, in die Forging hammers often carried out by using robust, but imprecise impact wedge systems. Wear to clamping surfaces, lack of reproducibility and high set-up costs are well-known consequences.

The target of the project was therefore to comprehend holistically record the physical influences during clamping for the first

time and to derive practical optimisation approaches from this. For this, Fraunhofer IWU has carried out extensive FEM simulation and developed a measuring system. Among other things, these can be used to record clamping force distribution, temperatures and accelerations directly at the clamping point.

The evaluations confirmed that local stresses at the contact surfaces between the die and the ram are high and very unevenly distributed. Already after just a few forging operations significant wear was apparent. This led to an impact analysis that examined 25 parameters – including die geometry, condition of spacers and clamping force application – with regard to five key clamping process parameters.

This resulted in a new clamping concept with modular force application and robust

wedge technology, combining the possibility of automation with high operational reliability – a big step forward to more efficient set-up, higher process quality and lower susceptibility to faults in forging operations.

New production facility

START UP

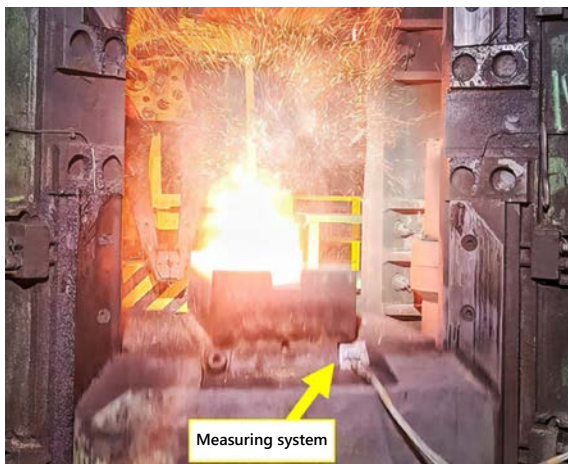
The traditional company Green Bay Drop Forge, which recently changed its name to W.E. Hoban Co., is currently building a new production facility in Grandview Industrial Park in Green Bay, Wisconsin (USA). As part of its strategic expansion, it is investing in LASCO forging lines in order to enable cost-optimised series production of drive shafts and pinions at a high quality level, thereby making a key contribution to increasing productivity.

Together with the hydraulic LASCO die forging hammers HO-U 160 and HO-U 315 the hydraulic LASCO press VPE 1000 and LASCO precision screw press SPR 2000 form fully automated production lines, which are centrally controlled and monitored.

With the investment in these high-performance forming units, an important milestone in the strategic relocation will be reached in the course of the year. In addition, the LASCO HO-U 160, which has proven itself since last year, will be transferred from the previous plant to the new production site and integrated into the automated production process.

With the new production facility, covering around 5,600 square metres, a process-oriented plant configuration with continuous material flow can be realized – a key aspect that could not be achieved at the previous location.

With this expansion, the company is pursuing the goal of tripling its production capacity, significantly expanding its workforce and opening up new markets. – And LASCO technology is making a key contribution to establishing efficient and future-proof production.



Counterblow hammer in production with measuring system mounted at the lower die

THE FUTURE OF FORGING

From 5 to 10 October 2025, Frankfurt am Main will host the 24th International Forging Congress (IFC) – the world's leading industry event focusing on the future of forging. LASCO is supporting the congress as a sponsor and will be represented with a stand at the trade exhibition. The IFC 2025 will focus on the main topic of 'Forging a Sustainable Future' and offer trade visitors a versatile programme: International specialist lectures, technical sessions as exclusive factory tours following the congress programme. Participation in the IFC enables LASCO to present its field of resource-saving forging to a future-oriented audience of experts – and to present its solutions in a high-class and international environment. The congress location is the „Kap Europa Convention Centre“ in Frankfurt, which is renowned for its sustainable architecture and modern infrastructure. The Forging Congress is organised by EUROFORGE and brings together the international forging community.



Automation in Focus - Part 1

LASCO 'NEXTGEN BIN PICKING'

What happens when systems not only work, but also 'think along'? When robots don't just execute commands but actually improve processes? And when automation not only speeds up production and relieves people but also improves quality, and saves costs in the long run?

This article series highlights exactly that: the real added value of automation – explained in a clear and practical way, with concrete examples from the LASCO spectrum. Because automation is not just a buzzword, but a lived reality for decades - since 1976: from planning to implementation to continuous further development, LASCO supports customers on their way to more efficient, safer, and future-proof production.

In the first part of this series, we take a look at the basics and economic advantages of modern automation – and show how LASCO makes a difference here with an optimized 'Bin-Picking' solution.

Framework conditions and potential benefits

In times of growing global competition, high energy costs, and an increasing

shortage of skilled workers, manufacturing companies are under enormous pressure to optimize processes in terms of cost. Automation is no longer just a technical tool, but a strategic lever for securing competitiveness. Not only are processes faster, more precise, and safer, but also clear economic advantages – from cost reduction and quality improvement to the relief of personnel resources are significant cost advantages of automation today. LASCO focuses precisely on this and offers individual automation solutions that pay off measurably for customers.

The key economic advantage of automation lies in reducing process costs. Through the targeted use of robotics and intelligent control systems, manual work steps can be reduced or completely replaced. This not only lowers personnel requirements but also minimizes scrap and rework. Cycle

times can be significantly shortened – a key aspect in industries with high volumes and tight delivery deadlines. LASCO automation solutions are designed to make production not only faster but also safer and more consistent. Robots take over monotonous or dangerous tasks and work with constant precision – even under difficult conditions.

More compact, quieter, more energy-efficient, and significantly more adaptable

Automated removal of chaotic stored parts from containers – also known as 'Bin-picking' – is a demanding task in industrial automation. With 'NextGen Bin Picking', LASCO has developed a solution that makes this process reliable, efficient, and adaptable – especially for applications in forging technology. Compared to previously used step feeders and vibratory feeders, which mechanically separate parts and depend



The new system intelligently links the capabilities of modern optical sensors and robotics.



The position and orientation of accessible parts in the container are automatically detected.



The gripper is a LASCO developed for various workpiece geometries.



LASCO 'NextGen Bin Picking' enables flexible and material-friendly handling of a wide variety of workpiece shapes.



development and can be adapted to different

on uniform geometries and wear-intensive movements, LASCO 'NextGen Box Picking' enables flexible and material-friendly handling of a wide variety of workpiece shapes. In addition, conventional feeders require a relatively large footprint and generate considerable noise during operation, whereas 'NextGen Box Picking' works more compactly, quietly, energy-efficiently, and is significantly more adaptable.

At the heart of the system is the combination of a commercially available, powerful 3D camera, intelligent image processing, and robot path planning specially adapted by LASCO. Based on this, the system independently recognizes the most accessible part in the container, determines its exact position and orientation, plans the optimal path, and executes the gripping process precisely. After completing the gripping process, the system checks whether a part has actually been grasped. It then follows the optimal path, places the part down, and immediately begins the next cycle. This creates a continuous, autonomous workflow that not only increases process reliability but also significantly reduces cycle time – depending on the application, to less than four seconds per pick.

Special importance is attached to the gripper developed by LASCO, which is available in both magnetic and vacuum-based versions. The design allows angle of inclination of up to 45 degrees and is equipped with damping element in the longitudinal direction as well as soft element for adapting to different workpiece geometries. These features ensure gentle handling and effective collision protection.

'Bin-Picking' is mainly used in processes where raw or forged parts are provided in chaotic manner – for example, in automated transfer of raw material for positioning before heating or forming processes or for transfer to downstream process steps.

With 'NextGen Bin Picking' LASCO demonstrates how automation solutions combine intelligent sensor technology and robust engineering – for economic benefits and practical implementation in everyday production.

In the next issue of this series another example from the LASCO automation universe – automated hammer forging – will be presented in detail.

A brief look

Four additional certifications: With the successful introduction of additional management systems, LASCO is expanding its standards in the areas of sustainability, safety and compliance. In addition to the existing quality management



system, certifications have now also been obtained in accordance with ISO 14001 (environmental management), ISO 45001 (occupational health and safety), ISO 37001 (corruption prevention and compliance) and ISO 50001 (energy management).

These new standards underline the company's comprehensive commitment to sustainable, safe and ethical business practices – today and in the future. They create clear framework conditions for responsible action in all areas of the company and strengthen the trust of customers, partners and employees in LASCO as a reliable technology partner.



EXHIBITIONS + DATES

EMO Hannover
Hannover, Germany
22 – 26 September 2025

International Forging Congress
Frankfurt a. M., Germany
5 – 7 October 2025

MSV
Brno, Czech Republic
8 – 11 October 2025

ReBuild Ukraine
Warsaw, Poland
13 – 14 November 2025

Personnel Developments in the LASCO Management Team

FUTURE-ORIENTATED

Report from CEO Lothar Bauersachs: 'The year 2025 brings not only technological innovation for LASCO, but also important personnel changes within our management team. These changes are of particular significance, as they will play a decisive role in how we implement our corporate strategy and shape the future. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce two new appointments.'

Fabian Lünz appointed CFO

As of June 16, 2025, Fabian Lünz has assumed responsibility as Chief Financial Officer. The 40-year-old graduate engineer and multiple Master's degree holder previously served for many years as "Head of Controlling" at LASCO. With extensive experience in the technical service branch of the German Air Force as well as in industrial positions, he brings a valuable combination of technical expertise and business management know-how.



Fabian Lünz

Fabian Lünz succeeds Thomas Götz, who has made significant contributions to LASCO's success as Managing Director of Business Administration since 2016. Prior to that, Thomas Götz provided important impetus for the company in various commercial management positions. The shareholders, management, and workforce extend their sincere thanks to him for his many years of commitment.

Nicklas Trier appointed Sales Director

Zum 15. Januar 2025 hat Nicklas Trier die On January 15, 2025, Nicklas Trier took over as Sales Director. Holding a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering, he knows LASCO from the ground up: he began his career with vocational training as a mechatronics technician at LASCO. After completing his Master's degree at Pforzheim University, he returned in 2019 and has since worked as a Sales Engineer.

In this role, he was responsible for markets including the Nordic countries, Turkey, and parts of Germany. He has successfully managed projects and demonstrated a deep understanding of markets, customers, and technical requirements alike. This experience makes him the ideal choice to lead the sales team.

We are confident that in his new role he will further strengthen our customer focus and provide valuable momentum. His predecessor, Jochen Günnel, has shaped our sales depart-



Nicklas Trier

ment for many years and will continue to contribute his expertise in his new position as Key Account Manager. In this way, we ensure both continuity and ongoing development.

Shaping the Future Together

The appointments of Fabian Lünz and Nicklas Trier demonstrate our commitment to further developing our management team and strengthening it from within. This ensures that knowledge and experience remain embedded within the company, while the leadership level is purposefully prepared for future challenges.

Lothar Bauersachs emphasizes: 'Both of these personnel decisions aim to further position LASCO as a high-performance, reliable, and forward-looking technology partner. I look forward to working together, and am convinced that with this team, we are setting the course for sustainable growth and long-term success.'



LASCO new trainees, Robert Welsch, Managing Director Production, training supervisor and works council



APPRENTICESHIP COMPLETED

Industrial and commercial apprentices successfully completed their vocational training at LASCO in spring 2025 and were officially bid farewell during a ceremony at the Coburg Chamber of Industry and Commerce. Our photo shows some of them together with the Chairman of the LASCO Management Board, Lothar Bauersachs (at the back on the left), and the training supervisors Georg Pfeuffer (at the back) and Florian Greiner (on the right). We congratulate our apprentices on their successful graduation and wish them all a successful start into the next stage of their careers. In the picture (on top, from left to right) Tim Spaderna, Daniel Hauck, (at the front, from left to right) Sajad Abasi, Sufian Hussien Kedi, Arsen Manu-kyan and Tom Kolb, as well as (not in the picture) Kosae Al Mahloul, Felix Potzta, Klajdi Mucaj and Vladislav Voridis.

■ LASCO INTERNAL

New start for apprentices

TALENT FACTORY

With the start of the new training year on September 1, 2025, young talents began their professional careers at LASCO.

The new apprentices include electronics technicians, mechatronics technicians, machining technicians, as well as industrial clerks and product designers.

At LASCO, dual vocational training holds a high priority, as theory and practice interact in a coherent overall concept, creating a solid foundation for sustainable employee qualification.

LASCO has always relied on developing its own young talent! "We deliberately train highly qualified specialists ourselves – through dual vocational training and dual study programs – not only to meet our own needs, but also because we take on social responsibility and offer young talents a reliable professional perspective for the future."

With a training rate of 13% – well above the industry average in machine tool manufacturing – LASCO sends a clear signal against the shortage of skilled workers and invests specifically in the company's future.

LASCO develops, designs, and manufactures machine tools and automation systems for solid and sheet metal forming, as well as production equipment for the building materials industry, in Coburg and at its sites in Monroe (USA) and Beijing (China).

OCCUPATIONS

- Electronic Technician
- Mechatronics
- Industrial Mechanics
- Cutting Mechanic
- Technical Product Designer
- Industrial Clerk
- Specialist for Digitalisation Management

DUAL COURSES

- Bachelor of Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering & Industrial Mechanics
- Electrical Engineering & Electronic Technician
- Bachelor of Arts Business Administration & Industrial Clerk

Period of apprenticeship: 2 – 3,5 years



Kito Crosby in Cradley Heath (UK)

Interview



Anthony Thomas
Managing Director
Kito Crosby
Cradley Heath,
United Kingdom

Competitive for years to come

up grade: Mr. Thomas, what were the main requirements for the new forging technology?

Anthony Thomas: Above all, we wanted to increase process reliability and reduce the risks caused by older machines. At the same time, we took the opportunity to improve productivity and keep rising operating costs under better control.

up grade: Why did you choose a combination of the HO-U 630 and HO-U 400?

Thomas: This allows us to cover the entire range of our products efficiently. The smaller hammer is ideal for our smaller forged parts, while the larger one provides flexibility for larger components.

up grade: How do you evaluate the cooperation with LASCO?

Thomas: LASCO reliably supported the project from start to finish. The on-time delivery and the quality of the machines convinced us – as did the fact that commissioning could be completed significantly earlier than planned.

up grade: What is the significance of this investment for the future of your site?

Thomas: The new hammers secure our production capacity for years to come. This enables us to further develop our product portfolio with flexibility while at the same time increasing efficiency – an important step in remaining competitive in the future.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

At its UK production site in Cradley Heath, West Midlands, Kito Crosby has replaced long-serving and reliably operating forging equipment with state-of-the-art LASCO technology. The goal of this investment was to sustainably increase production reliability, boost productivity, and effectively counter rising operating costs through the use of energy-efficient and high-performance machinery.

Kito Crosby is a global leader in lifting equipment, crane systems, and material handling solutions. The company was formed in 2023 through the merger of Kito Corporation (Japan) and The Crosby Group (USA). With corporate functions based in Arlington, Texas (USA), and Showa-Cho, Yamanashi

Prefecture (Japan), Kito Crosby operates in over 50 countries and maintains more than 40 manufacturing, office, and distribution sites. Its product portfolio includes chains, slings, hooks, connectors, offshore components, and wireless load monitoring systems, among others.

Since the 1960s, the company has maintained a successful partnership with LASCO. Most recently, LASCO supplied two new hydraulic forging hammers for the Cradley Heath site: the LASCO HO-U 630 with 63 kJ and the LASCO HO-U 400 with 40 kJ of blow energy. This investment enables Kito Crosby to forge both large structural components such as connecting elements and hooks, as well as smaller parts like shackles and clips, with high precision and resource efficiency.

Thanks to the increased blow energy and optimized drive and control technology,

output has been significantly improved. Depending on the forged part, productivity has increased by up to 80% compared to the previously used equipment.

The decision in favor of LASCO technology was also based on the proven reliability of the LASCO HO-U 200, which has been in continuous operation at Crosby since 1997.

The scope of supply also included the full integration of the new double acting die forging hammers into the existing production infrastructure. Upstream and downstream equipment – such as the induction furnace – is directly controlled and coordinated via the central LA Master Control system. Commissioning proceeded on schedule and efficiently, allowing production to start approximately six weeks earlier than originally planned.

With the investment in modern LASCO technology, Kito Crosby has improved overall equipment effectiveness (OEE), enhanced process robustness, and achieved a lasting reduction in operating costs. The new high-performance forging machines secure long-term production capacity and significantly strengthen the competitiveness of the Cradley Heath facility.



LASCO's HO-U 630 started operation in England six weeks ahead of Kito Crosby's expectations.