

MARKER

The magazine for the sheet metal working industry

Autumn 2018



Process expertise from a single source 8



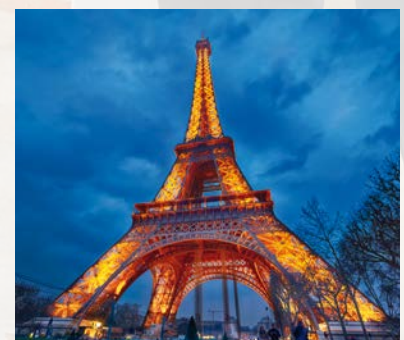
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Dear readers,

To grow together with our customers – this ambition lies at the heart of the AMADA corporate philosophy. To achieve this, we focus all our efforts on a single aim: To support our customers by helping to ensure their long-term competitiveness and efficient production. Thanks to the smart networking of our machines, we will show you the full potential of the sheet metal working process chain at this year's EuroBLECH. And like every year, in this winter edition of MARKER, we will give you an exclusive insight into our machine innovations: Here, you can read more about the nine highlights from our core technology sectors (bending, laser and welding including combined processes, software and automation) before experiencing them in live operation at the flagship trade fair for sheet metal processing. And naturally we would also be delighted to welcome you at our inhouse exhibition in the Solution Center in Haan (28.-30.11.2018 and 5.-7.12.2018). And now we invite you most warmly to take a look around our technologies and to get to know the latest productivity and efficiency benefits they offer! We hope you enjoy reading the current edition

Your team at AMADA GmbH



IMPRINT

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AMADA at EuroBLECH 2018

Innovation that's a step ahead

From 23 to 26 October, the 25th EuroBLECH will once again attract countless industry professionals to Hanover. AMADA will be present with machine highlights for optimum, networked and even more efficient production – entirely in the spirit of IoT.

As an international stand-out trade fair for the sheet metal processing industry, EuroBLECH has long been an unmissable event for experts looking to keep up-to-date with the most recent trends and technologies in the world of sheet metal processing. Around 1,500 exhibitors from 41 countries will be exhibiting their developments at this year's EuroBLECH. As one of the world's largest machine and tool manufacturers for the sheet metal processing industry, AMADA will also be exhibiting in Hanover. In Hall 12, booth D06/F06, the company will be showing off its highly practical, innovative manufacturing solutions for top-quality sheet metal processing. Over an exhibition space of approximately 2,000 square meters, visitors will be able to experience nine machine technologies for fiber laser cutting and welding, solutions from the automation field, punch-laser combination machines, and automated press brakes – all in action!

The influence of IoT continues to grow. The associated groundbreaking technologies are increasingly being used in manufacturing companies in order to achieve improvements in every production step. At EuroBLECH 2018, AMADA will therefore be pre-

senting the next generation of V-factory, its IoT concept for the intelligent factory. As always, visitors to the trade fair will be able to turn to AMADA's experts for advice during the exhibition and find out more about the latest production technologies for reduced energy consumption and optimum material utilization. Find out all about AMADA's product highlights on the following pages •

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**AMADA at EuroBLECH 2018:
Hall 12, Booth D06/F06**

Fiber laser with unique cutting capabilities

The new AMADA VENTIS 3015 AJ

The AMADA VENTIS-3015AJ is the first fiber laser system ever to permit the burr-free, smooth cutting of stainless steel and aluminum. The machine, which will be presented exclusively at EuroBLECH, also excels through its high speed and low operating costs.

AMADA is constantly further developing its products and technologies and continuously setting new standards in the world of sheet metal processing with its pioneering innovations. The most recent highlight produced by this culture of innovation is the VENTIS-3015AJ fiber laser cutting system. "The VENTIS is opening up a whole new dimension in fiber laser cutting because, with it, it is now possible for the first time to cut aluminum and stainless steel completely without burr and with very low surface roughness," explains Axel Willuhn, Product Manager for Punching and Laser Technology. "This makes the new AMADA VENTIS-3015AJ particularly interesting for customers who have previously decided not to use fiber lasers to cut aluminum and stainless steel out of quality reasons."

Outstanding beam quality

One of the VENTIS's many innovations for which patent applications have already been lodged are the special optics used in the cutting head. Unique in the world of laser cutting technology VENTIS allows the laser beam to move from side to side in different trajectories in a matter of milliseconds. This cutting mode

makes it possible to work with outstanding beam quality at all times. Thus, the laser in the AMADA VENTIS-3015AJ achieves a sensational BPP value (Beam Parameter Product) of 0.9 mm mrad. This beam quality is of vital importance in ensuring high-quality cuts and the burr-free, smooth cutting of stainless steel and aluminum. If necessary, the kerf width can be increased, for example to simplify the removal of the parts.

The AMADA VENTIS-3015AJ also excels thanks to its exceptional speed. As a result, this 4 kW system can easily rival machines in the 6 kW or even higher classes. The high cutting speed, the reduced power consumption and other process parameters mean that the costs of operating the VENTIS are considerably lower than for a system with a higher output level.

Maximum performance

Although the AMADA VENTIS-3015AJ is based on the ENSIS series, it has been further developed in very specific ways. Many process parameters have been improved and, among other things, the different trajectories of the cutting head have been further optimized. Piercing is considerably faster because the beam mode is perfect at all times. At the same time, the performance of the AMNC 3i control unit has been enhanced. Last but not least, all the automation modules used in AMADA's fiber laser systems can also be used with the new AMADA VENTIS-3015AJ. In this way, the new system, which will be available as of early 2019, will open up completely new manufacturing capabilities – for the perfect fiber laser cutting of all metals. ●

Innovation for stainless steel and aluminum: The new AMADA VENTIS-3015AJ.



AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ

New dimensions in laser cutting

With the new 6 kW and 9 kW variants, AMADA has significantly increased the output levels of the proven AMADA ENSIS series of laser cutting systems. Another completely new feature is the collimation unit which makes it possible to vary the focus and diameter of the laser beam better than ever before. Together with the numerous possibilities for automation, these developments pave the way to completely new dimensions, in particular for the machining of medium and thick sheets.

The AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ has proven its value many times as a laser cutting system for perfect, top-quality cuts. Now AMADA has once again significantly increased the performance of the series. Consequently, the AMADA ENSIS is now available as a 6 kW and 9 kW variant in addition to the previous 3 kW model. In this way, all users can choose the right output level for their individual areas of application and cover every requirements profile without having to compromise. Another completely new feature is the collimation unit. Thanks to the unit's movable optics, it is possible to optimize the focus position and the diameter of the laser beam better than ever before. Together with the variable beam control capability, which adapts

the beam shape as required, this results in completely new beam properties that considerably extend the range of applications in the materials processing field.

The faster, more precise way to the perfect cut

"With the new output classes and the collimation unit, medium-thickness sheets can be cut economically and in high quality. At the same time, thick sheets can also be processed in high quality and considerably faster than before," emphasizes Axel Willuhn, Product Manager for Punching and Laser Technology. For example, the initial penetration at the start of the cutting process can now be performed up to seven times faster

than in the past thanks to the beam focusing capability. After this, the laser itself adjusts to the correct beam width and cuts the contours of the component with optimum rectangularity and outstanding edge quality. This process is stored in the cutting database and is performed automatically. No other setup operations are required since the optics cover the entire spectrum of materials. This also makes the AMADA ENSIS series of machines particularly easy to operate. Ease of operation is further supported by the large doors along the side and at the front of the



Axel Willuhn,
Product Manager
for Punching and
Laser Technology,
AMADA GmbH



With the new performance classes, the AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ laser cutting system is perfectly suited for the high-quality, economically efficient cutting of medium and thick sheets. Add-ons such as the TKL and ASF-EU guarantee maximum automation.



machine that permit excellent access to the workspace.

Reduced consumption, low thermal effects

However, the latest system generation also boosts performance in the field of nitrogen-based cutting in particular, because this permits the oxide-free cutting of both normal and stainless steel. At the same time, the use of special nozzle technology has permitted a considerable reduction in the consumption of cutting gas.

The AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ also compensates for the normally high level of warming that results from the considerable energy penetration in thicker materials. On the one hand, this involves adapting the beam properties so that less energy is led into the material. On the other, the Water Assisted Cutting System (WACS) reduces the effect of temperature during cutting. At the same time, the layout on the panel can be optimized with only minimum supporting elements and small distances between the individual components. Along-

side the reduced consumption, the increased cutting speed and the high cutting quality that practically eliminates the need for reworking, the AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ also ensures outstanding economic and production efficiency – in every performance class.

Automation level of over 90 percent

The new generation of AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ laser cutting systems is also perfectly suited for automated production. AMADA offers a number of extension options for this. These include the MP-Flexit loading and unloading unit, for example. It contains one loading and one unloading compartment and is therefore a perfect entry-level automation solution. By contrast, the ASF-EU loading and unloading tower is a much more advanced solution that is available in various extension levels and considerably increases storage capacity. It is available as a single-tower or dual-tower variant. It is also possible to install a second output station that can be used to remove

Images without safety devices.

components directly. And if this is not sufficient for everyday manufacturing activities: It is also possible to connect the system to a storage system, with the result that capacities can be expanded almost limitless. Even more automation can be achieved by combining the ASF-EU loading and unloading tower and takeout loader (TKL) for parts sorting. This automatically removes the components from the cutting table after cutting and places them down sorted. This dramatically reduces the manpower required at the machine. Operators are saved a lot of strenuous work and are able to concentrate their attention on other important tasks in the form of multiple machine operation. This means: As a stand-alone solution, the AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ combined with the ASF-EU and TKL can, in principle, work fully autonomously. With an automation level of up to 90 percent and, depending on the current task, it sometimes even exceed this. ●

Improved quality, enhanced productivity

Fiber laser technology with perfect performance

The AMADA FLW-3000ENSIS M5 fiber laser welding cell, the AMADA ENSIS-3015RI fiber laser cutting system and the AMADA EML-2515AJ (PDC) punching and fiber laser combination machine are the most recent developments based on AMADA's fiber laser technology. Through numerous extensions and optimizations, AMADA has once again increased the performance of all the machines – for an outstanding new level of efficiency, quality and versatility.

The AMADA FLW-3000ENSIS M5 fiber laser welding cell is the latest development in AMADA's FLW series. AMADA has very recently further optimized the processes in the welding cell to improve machining quality and productivity in order, in particular, to reduce the time- and cost-intensive downstream finishing processes to a minimum. Consequently, the energy penetration from the fiber laser can be adapted by means of variable beam control so precisely that it is automatically optimally defined for each type of material and each task. This outstanding process ensures that there is nearly no discoloration or deformation on the backs of even the thinnest sheets. The penetration depth can also be varied to meet requirements. This is further complemented by the innovative welding technology and the special Ring Mode Beam for optimal bridging of even large gap sizes. "This makes

the AMADA FLW-3000ENSIS M5 a multi-purpose system that offers optimum performance for every welding application and for a very wide variety of metals," says Axel Willuhn, Product Manager for Punching and Laser Technology. "Compared to conventional systems, the AMADA FLW-3000ENSIS M5 also excels through its particularly low energy consumption." The M5 version with its innovative changeover table guarantees minimum stoppage times. Thanks to this, it is possible to perform welding with the first table in the booth while the second table is being prepared. The AMADA FLW-3000ENSIS M5 has also been further optimized in the form of a new safety booth that complies with the high T2 safety standard. "It is an active safety system that fully monitors the welding process and stops it automatically if required. As a result, the AMADA FLW-3000ENSIS M5 can be operated with less man power than in the past and the operator

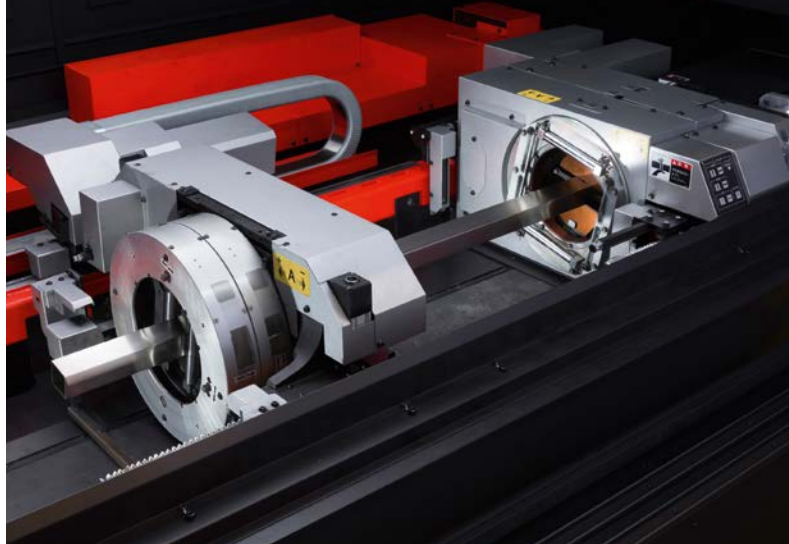


Thanks to its outstanding precision and adaptable dosing, the fiber laser in the AMADA FLW-3000ENSIS M5 reduces retouching work to the absolute minimum.

does not have to be fully dedicated to this one system," explains Willuhn. In short, the AMADA FLW-3000ENSIS M5 guarantees all users even more quality, productivity and safety.

AMADA ENSIS-3015RI: Improved handling, greater precision

The AMADA ENSIS-3015RI fiber laser cutting system has been further optimized. More specifically, AMADA has completely redesigned the Rotary Index unit (RI) for the flatbed as well as the tube and profile machining process – and has also introduced a new safety concept that completely screens off the unit. The chuck that guides and supports the workpiece now actively turns synchronously with the rotary



The new AMADA EML-2515AJ (top) is the successful all-rounder in the field of punching and fiber laser combination technology, with increased machining speed and perfect performance for all areas of application.

The many new features and functions of the AMADA ENSIS-3015RI (left) ensure an even higher level of performance. The RI unit (above) has been completely redesigned.

Images partly without safety devices.

chuck and therefore no longer exerts any counteracting force on the workpiece. As a result, thin sheet metal tubes or sensitive profiles, in particular, can be processed much more precisely than in the past and without any scratches or deformations.

Another entirely new feature in the AMADA ENSIS-3015RI is the integrated measuring sensor, which is known as the "Touch Probe". It travels down to the workpiece and measures it with extreme precision. This system provides considerably more accurate values than are obtained using other methods. This allows for example to implement the precisely defined geometrical position of an external edge to a very high level of accuracy during real-life operation. And when it comes to materials costs, the system excels thanks to the Water Assisted Cutting System (WACS), which helps to improve material utilization. Overall, the AMADA ENSIS-3015RI now offers

considerably greater precision than in the past, combined with improved handling and optimized material utilization – all combined with considerably higher speeds.

EML-2515AJ (PDC): Highly productive high-end system

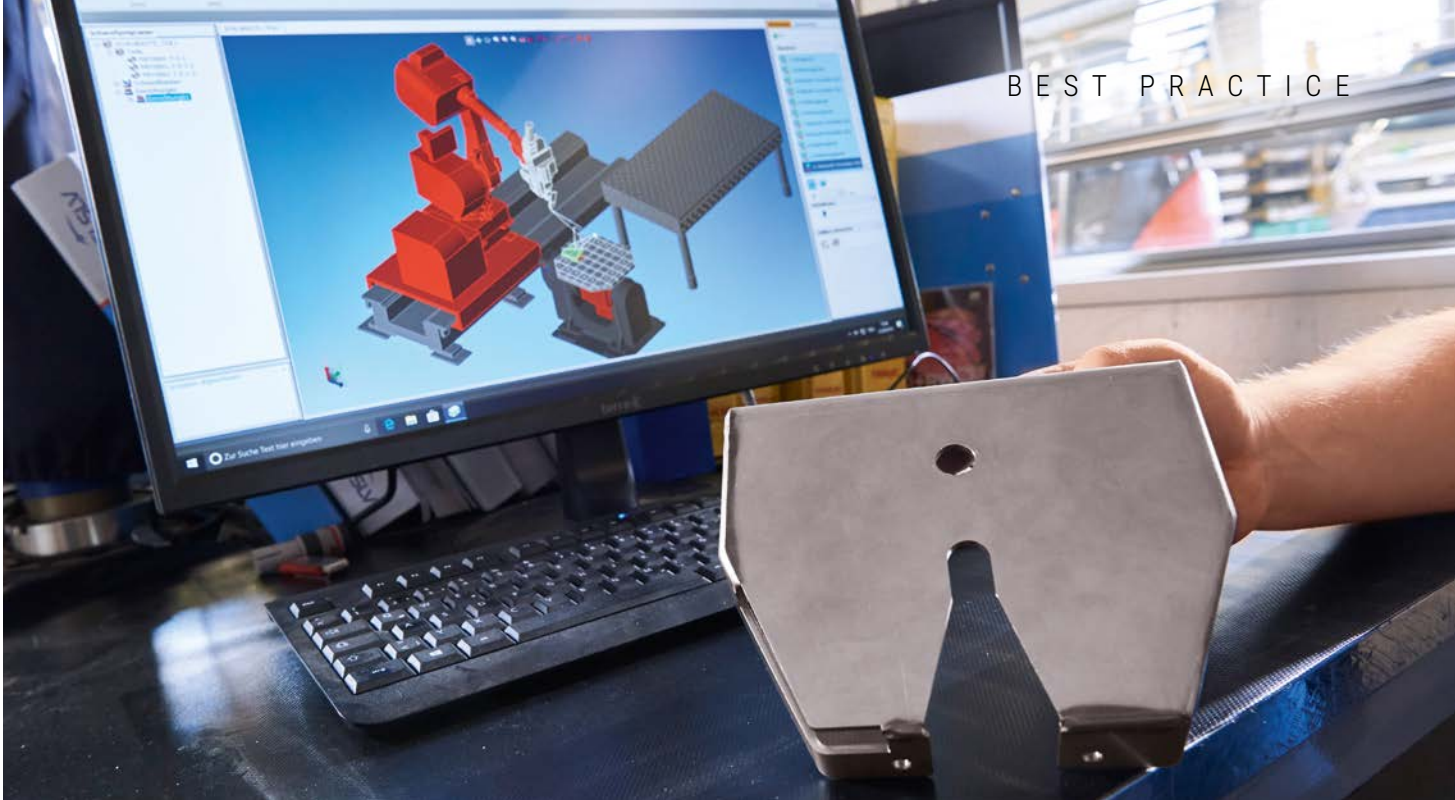
As a 3 kW punch-fiber laser combination machine with a punching force of 300 kN, the AMADA EML-2515AJ rounds off the AMADA product portfolio in the punch-laser sector. From the technical point of view, the capabilities of the previous LC-2515C1AJ and ACIES-2515AJ punching and fiber laser combination machines have been extended by a very productive high-end system. At the same time, the system, which has been configured for large format working areas, offers considerably more performance. This includes an increase in stroke frequency of up to 20 percent as well as higher speeds that

reach as much as 50 meters per minute – and all of this is achieved with considerably lower energy consumption than in a CO₂ laser, both in operating and stand-by mode. Another important feature of the AMADA EML-2515AJ is the integrated nozzle changer. This guarantees a continuous production process that is not interrupted by manual set up operations and is therefore essential for unmanned, automated production. Last but not least, the AMADA EML-2515AJ can optionally be equipped with the PDC (Punch & Die Changer) tool changer to set up the tools automatically and considerably increase the number of available tools compared to the standard version. All this makes the AMADA EML-2515AJ the successful all-rounder in the field of punching and fiber laser combination technology, with increased machining speed and perfect performance for all areas of application. ●



PB MeTech GmbH, Alfdorf

Process expertise from a single source



PB MeTech GmbH recently extended its AMADA machine pool with a new AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ laser cutting system, an AMADA HG-2204ATC press brake and the AMADA FLW-ENSIS fiber laser welding system. The company is now able to cover the entire sheet metal working process chain as a single-source provider – from cutting, through bending, and on to welding. The latest generation of AMADA technology ensures that it delivers perfect quality, while also guaranteeing economic efficiency and outstanding levels of reproducibility. At the same time, it also provides the versatility and speed that will be decisive for future success.

The lock case that is used to lock stretchers in ambulances is one of the components manufactured using the three new AMADA systems.

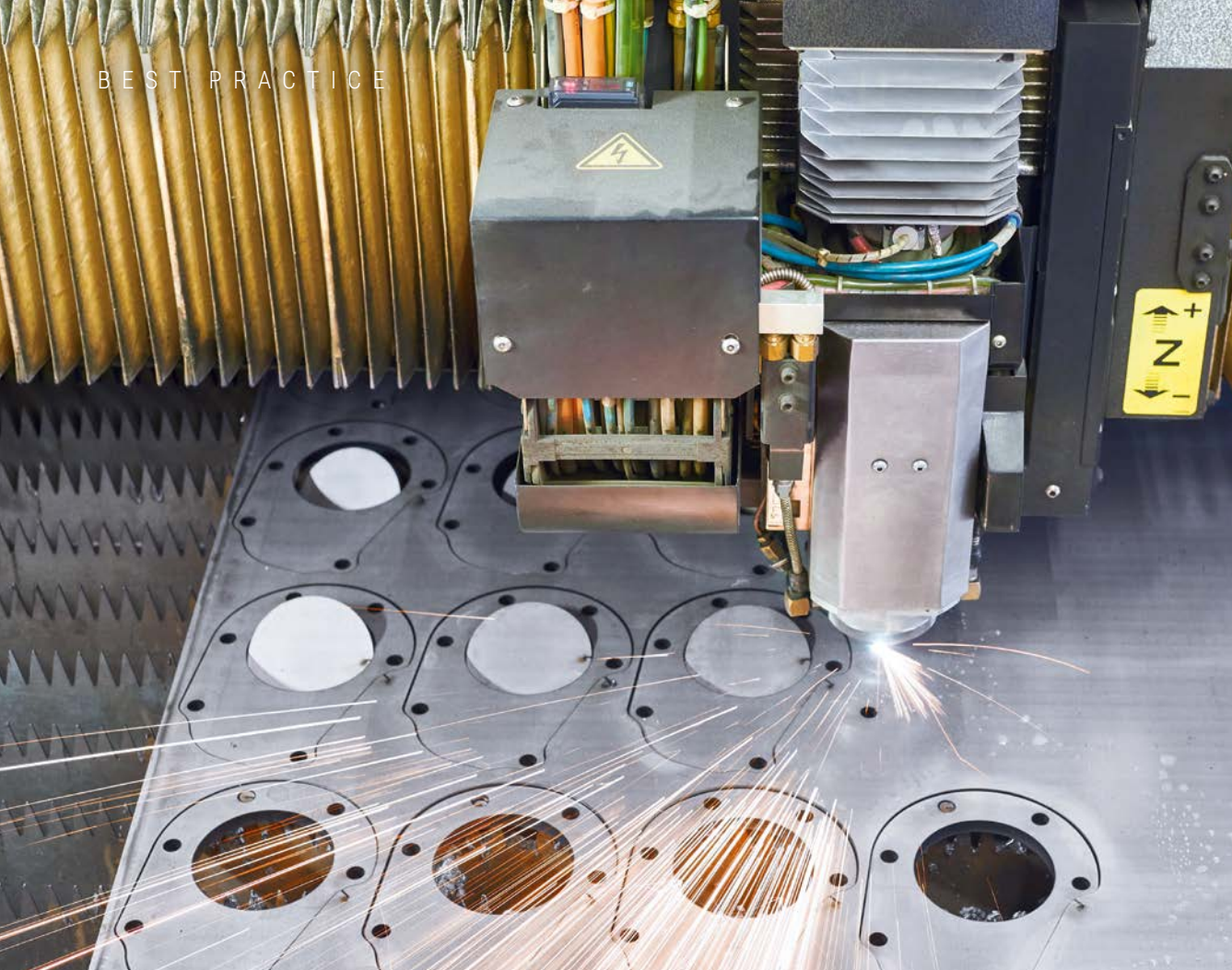
The large production hall of PB MeTech GmbH in the Swabian town of Alfdorf is running at full capacity. With practiced ease, an employee removes the finely perforated steel sheets that roll out on the conveyor of the laser cutting system. Right next to him, a user is laying out large metal plates on another laser cutting machine. During all this, a machine operator is programming the automatic tool changer at the adjacent press brake. This will then position the upper and lower tools in the press beam at exceptionally high speed. By contrast, in the rear part of the hall, a welding cell is working completely without human intervention, as its robot arm welds perfect seams on three components in a single pass. And at the computer screen in the

factory office, two technicians are creating the program for a completely new part. “As a single-source provider, we cover the entire sheet metal process chain from cutting, through bending and on to welding,” says Managing Director Günter Pflüger not without pride. “This is all based on AMADA’s machine technology on which we, as a satisfied customer, have relied for decades.” That is why Pflüger has continuously expanded the machine pool ever since the company was founded in 1999 and has consistently invested in AMADA’s latest system technology.

Good reasons for AMADA

The most recent investments made by PB MeTech GmbH include three

AMADA systems: an AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ laser cutting system, an AMADA HG-2204ATC press brake and the AMADA FLW fiber laser welding system. And in the near future, these solutions will be joined by an AMADA HFE-5012 press brake. Pflüger decided on these investments for a number of reasons: “All the new systems are equipped with the AMADA 3i control unit and are therefore standardized in terms of software and control. This means that we can handle all the machines with a single piece of software.” This greatly simplifies manufacturing operations and saves us a lot of time in our everyday work. The systems themselves also further contribute to the coherence of the AMADA machine pool – bringing a number of highly practical benefits: “We work closely together with



- ▶ AMADA on the basis of mutual trust and confidence. And if a problem arises, I know that an AMADA technician will soon be on site so that we can solve the difficulties together,” explains Pflüger. Another criterion was naturally the outstanding performance of the systems which is unsurpassed in terms of quality, reliability and efficiency. And this is very much appreciated by the customers of PB MeTech GmbH who are already explicitly asking for their products to be manufactured on the new systems. In order to be able to take advantage of all the performance capabilities, the employees of PB MeTech GmbH benefit from various training events and courses given by AMADA’s experts. “With the new AMADA systems, PB MeTech GmbH possesses the most modern sheet metal processing technology available on the market and can therefore extend its performance and product portfolio in specific areas,” is the opinion of Frank Prokosch, Sales Executive for Tool Technology and Accessories at AMADA.

Inhouse portfolio and contract manufacturing

PB MeTech GmbH’s product portfolio is subdivided into two sectors of approximately equal importance. The first comprises highly complex proprietary products in the form of removable components for ambulance vehicles. These include, for example, retractable stretchers together with their substructures in the vehicle. These components are all tested in compliance with standards and are marketed by the company worldwide. In its second sector of activity, PB MeTech GmbH acts as a service provider manufacturing components for its customers. In this case, the focus is placed on the production of special parts involving the construction of one-off parts and prototypes in runs of between 1 and 3,000. In both product sectors, the three new AMADA systems will open up completely new potential. Pflüger: “With the fiber laser in the AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ, we are now able to process even very thin materials extremely quickly, but also, and

more importantly, we can also cut nonferrous metals such as copper, brass and titanium. And with regard to new technologies and materials in the field of accumulators and batteries in particular, we can now also address new customer groups.” And these different materials can be welded together perfectly and extremely quickly using AMADA’s FLW fiber laser welding system. “We can even weld together highly polished parts without difficulty using the FLW. What is more, there is practically no reworking because there are no welding distortions.” Last but not least, the new AMADA HG-2204ATC also opens up new possibilities in the field of bending. “Alongside the automatic angle measurement system, the automatic tool changer is naturally also of crucial importance. It saves the employee an enormous amount of work and reduces setup times from an average of an hour to less than five minutes. At the same time, we can now manufacture complex components in a single pass. Not to mention the fact that the number of nonconforming

With the new AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ, PB MeTech is now able to cut nonferrous metals such as copper, brass and titanium (left). These can then be welded together perfectly and extremely quickly with the AMADA FLW fiber laser welding system (right).



With the new AMADA systems, PB MeTech's Managing Director, Günter Pflüger, has decisively extended the company's manufacturing expertise.



parts is practically zero with the HG-ATC," continues Pflüger.

Example component: Lock case

One example of a component that is manufactured using all three new AMADA systems is the lock case that is used to lock the stretcher onto the corresponding table in the ambulance. And the advantages of AMADA technology can be seen at a very early stage, namely in the simple, fast, software-driven creation of the component file. This file forms the basis for all subsequent steps and is loaded onto the relevant machines from the server. For the purposes of the lock case, this is the AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ whose fiber laser cuts the 3-mm thick stainless steel extremely quickly and with outstanding precision. The component is then passed on to the AMADA HG-2204ATC which performs all the necessary bends with total accuracy. To finish, the component is welded using the FLW fiber laser welding system. The lock case is now fin-



ished – with unsurpassed speed and in perfect quality in compliance with standards. Pflüger sums up as follows: "In the past, manufacturing such lock cases was considerably more time-consuming. We are now thirty percent faster and benefit from one hundred percent reproducibility with no reworking."

Investing in the future

The example of the lock case shows how the new AMADA systems are already proving their value in practice. "However, they are also an

investment in the future, in particular because they will allow us to be more versatile and react faster. At the same time, they are the ideal basis for automated production and networked manufacturing in accordance with the IoT principle," explains Pflüger. "All in all, we enjoy a unique position thanks to the new systems in combination with our existing machine pool. With all this, we possess comprehensive process expertise that allows us to successfully perform today's tasks and also rise to the challenges of the future." ●

What's new in the world of bending?

A new performance range

At EuroBLECH 2018, AMADA will also be presenting its latest developments for the pressing and bending sector. These include, among other things, the new EG-4010 press brake, a pneumatic tool system for the HFE3i-1003L and the Bi-S angle measurement system for the HG-2204ATC.

With the EG-4010, AMADA is extending its machine portfolio for bending applications to include a compact, electrically driven press brake with 400 kN of press force and a beam width of 1 meter. The generously sized foot opening allows the operator to work comfortably in a sitting position. One unique feature of the EG-4010 is the patented DSP drive system with two electric motors at the top press beam – for the rapid lowering of the press beam at 220 mm/s as well as for precise, powerful guidance with a positioning accuracy of up to 1/1000 mm. Another highlight is the New AFH tool system. “With this, all the stations, including for components with different sheet thicknesses, can be set up in parallel and operators benefit from software support allowing them to manufacture all the parts of an assembly in a single cycle,” explains Tankred Kandra, Product Manager for Bending Technology. Thanks to the extremely rigid machine frame, the EG-4010 can also perform stamping operations. The EG-4010 is rounded off by a new back gauge, the DigiPro elec-

tronic angle measuring system and an ergonomic package consisting of a chair, worktable and storage compartments. The AMNC 3i control unit ensures full networking capability and permits external programming.

Clamping at the touch of a button

With the HFE3i-1003L, AMADA is also showing off a proven success story in the world of press brakes with 1000 kN of press force and a beam width of three metre. The L stands for Longstroke and a higher machine base which is particularly suited to the manufacturing of larger components. Like the new standard of AMADA machine types, the HFE3i-1003L is also equipped with the AMNC 3i control unit. One completely new feature is the automatic, pneumatic tool clamping system that clamps all the tools in place at a single touch of a button. In addition, the system possesses the innovative FAST Finger back gauge which is equipped with sophisticated safety technology that allows it to move at maximum positioning speed at all

times – without time-consuming decelerations.

Straight to the finished part

The HG-2204ATC, which will be on display too, also excels through its maximized productivity – thanks to its 2200 kN of press force, a beam width of 4 m and the Automatic Tool Changer (ATC).

It also includes the SF 75 two-armed sheet follower for the accurate machining of large sheets as well as the Bi-S angle measurement system. This mechanically measures the sheet and sets the correct angle via up to three measurement points during the bending operation itself. As a result, all users arrive at the finished part as quickly as possible. This ensures maximum efficiency, in particular during the production of very small batch sizes. In combination with the ATC, which is one of the most powerful tool changers on the market and is able to reduce setup times from 40 to just 3-4 minutes, the HG-2204ATC is also able to cope with unexpected rush jobs without any difficulty. ●

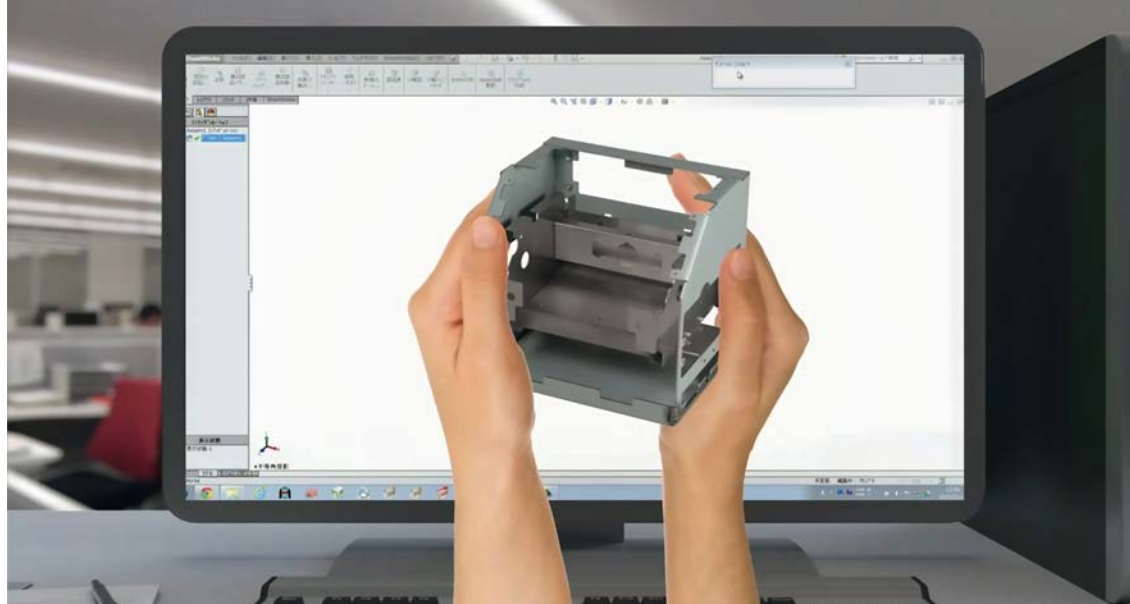


Tankred Kandra,
Product Manager
for Bending Technology,
AMADA GmbH



For perfect bending and forming: The AMADA HG-2204 ATC (left), the new AMADA EG-4010 (center) and the AMADA HFE 3i-1003 L (right).

Comprehensive monitoring and optimum service lie at the heart of the extended AMADA V-factory concept.



The next generation of the AMADA V-factory concept

The smart IoT factory

AMADA is extending the V-factory concept in line with the principles of IoT to include smart live machine monitoring (My V-factory) and, in the future, even with a proactive customer service option. In this way, all users can optimally design their manufacturing processes, maintain a live view of production activities at all times and obtain assistance without delay in the event of problems.

Varying batch sizes, increasing component complexity and ever shorter throughput and delivery times are regularly confronting sheet metal processing companies with new challenges. As a comprehensive concept for the intelligent factory, the latest generation of the AMADA V-factory provides the necessary solutions. With My V-factory for individual production monitoring and interactive IoT support, AMADA can supply you with two new modules for this innovative concept.

Individual monitoring with My V-factory

All customers can monitor the entire production environment on the desktop and smart terminal devices at a glance in real time. To permit this, My V-factory depicts all the current machine states as well

as the running and completed programs. In addition, My V-factory also provides information about the exact runtimes and setup times, including a precise differentiation between stand-by and stoppage times. "Together with other features such as production quantities, we therefore offer an ideal system allowing users to design optimum production sequences at their different company sites themselves. My V-factory provides practical solutions for counteracting bottlenecks and downtimes before they arise," explains Lukas Pollok, Application Engineer responsible for software.

Interactive customer service in step with the times

AMADA's IoT support is the second innovation in the AMADA V-factory concept. As a custom service, it



Lukas Pollok,
Application Engineer
responsible
for software,
AMADA GmbH

kicks in precisely where producers themselves do not recognize risks, and provides fast, reliable support for maintenance queries. Depending on the customer's wishes, AMADA's IoT support can be activated either automatically when warning messages arise or only when actively requested by the customer. At the same time, the security of the customer's data is guaranteed at all times.

Maximum application potential

The best way to take advantage of the potential of the new AMADA V-factory concept is to use the AMNC3i control unit and the intelligent VPSS3i software. However, My V-factory is also able to support earlier generations. Manufacturers gain particular benefit from the virtual prototype simulation which eliminates errors before the production stage is reached. In the future, AMADA's V-factory will be available with different booking options so that all users can design their own individual production approaches and incorporate just as much innovation as they want. ●



AMADA customer trip

Bonjour la France

17 sheet metal processing companies from Germany and Austria had the opportunity to visit the AMADA production plant in Charleville-Mézières and the showroom in Paris in early September. The feedback after the trip was extremely positive.

“We wanted to give our customers the opportunity to see for themselves where the machines they buy are produced and what the underlying quality goals are. With our trip to France, we were able to do this very successfully,” says Michael Gülland, General Manager Sales North / East / West Germany, Amada GmbH (Photo above, far right). The participating customers enjoyed an extremely varied program spread over three days. The first destination was AMADA Europe S.A. in Paris, the French partner company to

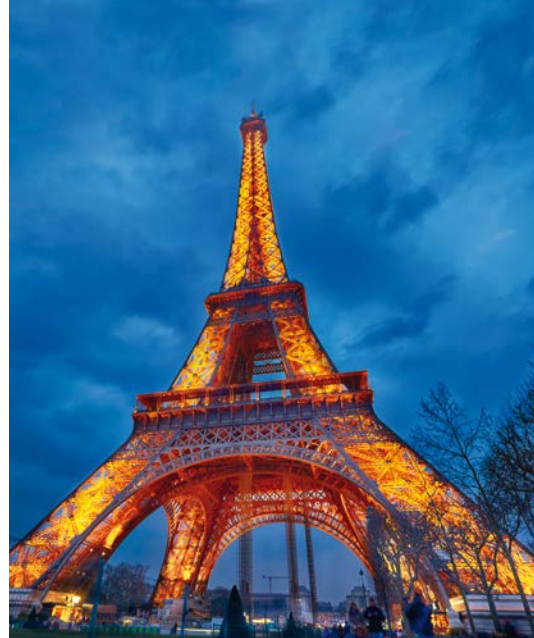
AMADA GmbH. “The showroom there provided a wide ranging insight into the AMADA portfolio. The visitors could see machines from all our product sectors, for example laser cutting machines of different performance classes, punch-laser combination machines, a number of press brakes and various bending automation solutions,” explains Gülland.

High standards

The 23-man-strong group also stopped at the production site in Charleville-Mézières. The factory, which has stood on the site since the 1970s, was taken over by AMADA in 1986 and has been extended in a number of steps since then. The most recent expansion and new construction measures took place in 2016 and 2017. “Nowadays, the plant shows just how high AMADA’s production standards are,” continues Gülland. And the visitors were able to confirm this for themselves during a guided tour of the factory. Only machines for the European market



The AMADA production site in Charleville-Mézières following the conversion.



With its customers, AMADA visited the AMADA showroom in Paris together with other destinations, of course the Eiffel Tower was not to be missed.

are produced here. Alongside the factory visits, the highlights of the trip also included a shared evening meal at the Eiffel Tower Restaurant 58 and a night’s accommodation in the Château Fort in Sedan, one of the largest fortresses in Europe. Gülland: “The feedback from our customers after the journey was extremely positive. Everyone said a heartfelt thank-you to us for organizing it. This has convinced us that much more of the same is needed. We will continue to pursue the idea behind this trip and offer similar experiences in the future.” ●

Save the Date: Winter-SOLUTION

This year once again, visitors to SOLUTION in Haan will regularly be able to experience AMADA’s technologies close up and live. From 28th to 30th November 2018 and 5th to 7th December 2018, the AMADA inhouse exhibition will once again offer a rich and varied supporting program with machines in live operation, informative presentations and expert consulting services. For more information, go to: www.amada.de/en/home.html.





The culture of the Far East in Düsseldorf

Japantown on the Rhine

With approximately 6,500 inhabitants of Japanese origin, Düsseldorf has Europe's largest "Japanese community". With the result that you don't have to travel half way around the world in order to experience the attractions of Japanese culture and way of life.

It was over 65 years ago that the first Japanese businesspeople settled in Düsseldorf. However, the link between the State capital of North Rhine-Westphalia and the chain of islands at the eastern fringes of Asia goes back significantly farther than that. In the 19th century, the Düsseldorf-born merchant Louis Kniffler established the first friendly and business relations with Japan and thus lay the cornerstone for a long-lasting association.

When a push was made in the 1950s to boost trade relations with Europe, Düsseldorf's excellent infrastructure made it the ideal location. More and more Japanese families moved to the German metropolis – and with them, they brought their Far-East lifestyle to the banks of the Rhine. The first Japanese restaurant was opened in 1963. This was followed by the Japanese Consulate General, the Japanese

Chamber of Trade and Industry, the first Japanese school and Europe's first Japanese book store.

Meeting of the cultures

Nowadays, every aspect of Japanese culture can be found in Düsseldorf, from garden concepts through to pop culture. Visitors can simply take a stroll through the Japanese quarter on the Immermannstrasse, which is referred to as Little Tokyo, to discover a wealth of insights into everyday life, culture and cuisine.

However, aspects of Japanese culture are experienced not only as a fixed element of everyday life in Düsseldorf. Frequent events and festivals are held, for example Düsseldorf's famous Japan Day which attracts 750,000 visitors to this city on the Rhine every year. With a rich and varied program combining music, dance, sport and



cuisine and a spectacular fireworks show, this is a vibrant and colorful celebration of the meeting of the different cultures.

Thanks to the location of AMADA GmbH's headquarters in Haan, close to the entrance to Düsseldorf, the region's international flavor feeds into the company's daily work and ensures an open approach to our dealings with our international customers.

The next Japan Day will take place on 25th May 2019. More information: www.japantag-duesseldorf-nrw.de/en. •

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