

The efficiency of total cutting: TECOI develops the new production line of the Italian company ILMEA

The new industrial complex of metalworking company ILMEA combines laser cutting, plasma and machining equipment with state-of-the-art automatic sheet metal storage systems.



Laser cutting, automatic storage and plasma cutting: the new alliance between ILMEA and TECOI.

In Boncore, a small town by the Adriatic Sea in the Italian region of Puglia, the metallurgical company ILMEA has been manufacturing the bodywork for all kinds of industrial machinery for more than half a century. Its parts, made of iron, carbon steel, stainless steel, Corten and aluminium, are used in excavators, graders, agricultural equipment and other heavy transport and lifting systems. Given its close ties with the sea, ILMEA has also specialised in the production of material



for the nautical sector, including essential components in the field of professional fishing. In other words, complex articles designed to meet the high standards required by this type of industries. In this demanding environment, ILMEA has found in innovation and technology an effective way to differentiate itself from its competitors and to guarantee product quality at all times. That is why, after becoming the first Italian company to install an internal 5G network, the company has decided to turn to TECOI to build its revolutionary new production center.



ILMEA: 35 workers, 57 years of history and more than 6000 m2 of production facilities.

This innovative installation stands out for integrating laser and plasma cutting services with automatic storage systems, all of them focused on large format and all of them developed by TECOI. The line starts with a LS-CF of more than 3 metres wide and 6 metres long. Capable also of bevelling thanks to the exclusive BEVEL ARC technology, this member of TECOI laser range gives way to the impressive STOCKTEC, a robust sheet metal storage system also



designed by the Spanish company which collects and distributes the material according to operational needs. On the other side, STOCKTEC links up with TEKNOS, to which, like the LS-CF, it supplies new sheets, and from which it extracts the parts once they have been finished. Equipped with plasma heads and also with a machining head prepared for drilling, milling, threading and countersinking, TEKNOS completes a fully automated production line, although, as ILMEA states, the best feature of the whole might be its high versatility.



A TECOI TEKNOS with plasma cutting and bevelling as well as drilling capabilities completes ILMEA's new cutting line.

"Our requirement was to enhance not only our production capacity, but also the flexibility of our company to handle with quality, repeatability and precision the wide range of sheet thicknesses that we are dealing with here," explains Antonio Pisanò, ILMEA's administrator and the second generation at the front of the company. "And yes, this facility is really versatile, which has given us the



possibility to reach new customers and to catch many more movements," declares Pisanò. "In addition, TECOI has allowed us to incorporate machinery that is completely organised around our own structure. The difference compared to other suppliers is that they have designed and planned a system that is absolutely tailor-made to us".



View of ILMEA's LS-CF, equipped with the dual-fibre DFP system developed by TECOI and connected to STOCKTEC.

Another strength of the system, as stressed by Mr. Pisanò, is its high level of efficiency. Starting from STOCKTEC, the possibility of loading and unloading the plate while the two machines are still cutting is the best asset in favour of this notion, but not the only one. "The double fibre system that TECOI has integrated into the laser machine head reinforces the productivity we were looking for. This formula makes it possible to cut different thicknesses without having to stop to change the configuration". In fact, it is possible to partially cut with the laser machine and, after passing through STOCKTEC, TEKNOS can complete the



process with its plasma cutting head or its multi-tool drill. From this point of view, thanks to the interconnection of the three CNCs - one for each model - one or several job lists can be set up, which can even be modified in real time. "In the last two years," concludes Antonio Pisanò, "Ilmea has doubled its turnover. In 2024 we will try to maintain this positive trend based on the innovations brought by the company and on the ability to increase production and offer a quality product in much shorter times". A purpose in which its new strategic alliance with TECOI will undoubtedly play a key role.



STOCKTEC, the innovative automatic sheet metal storage system that dominates the new ILMEA installation.

