

FONDIS SA

# ART ON FIRE

*“Designer and manufacturer of classic chimneys, contemporary fireplaces and wood stoves in Alsace, France.”*

*“Innovation is a key word to Fondis, but not only for their products.”*

Whether its style is classic or contemporary, gathering by the fireplace remains one of winter's finest pleasures. For 35 years, Fondis has been producing fireplaces in metal, glass and stone ranges based completely on innovation, and that is not simply hearsay. Since 2003, Fondis has filed over twenty patents, including their latest "Zero CO" technology, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and dust emissions by 90%. Innovation is a key word to Fondis, but not only for their products. "The shop floor looks nothing like it did even a couple of years ago," says Fred Haas, Technical Director of Fondis. "We completely redefined our entire production line, now every process maximizes productivity."

This organizational shift not only addressed processes but also Fondis' investment in new machinery, one of the most important being LVD's automated tool-changing press brake, the *ToolCell*. Fondis' operating team needs a new tooling set-up roughly every 30 minutes. Manual tool set-up time can add up quickly, and since the installation of their *ToolCell*, Mr. Haas explains, **"We're saving five to seven minutes on every tool change,"** resulting in up to an hour of time savings throughout an eight hour shift. "We were one of the first companies in the world to have a *ToolCell*, its automated tool-changing capability has eliminated so much unproductive time we didn't realize we were losing."

Along with the *ToolCell* Fondis is equipped with a *Easy-Form* press brake and a *Orion 2.5 kW* laser cutting machine.

