



GICOM - THE NETHERLANDS

QUALITY AND RELIABILITY FIRST

The current trend toward small series and single-unit production requires machinery with short set-up and change-over times. Automatic tool changing is, therefore, the ultimate solution. Recently, in addition to the latest Phoenix 6020 6 kW fiber laser, Gicom also invested in a ToolCell 220/40 Plus auto tool changing press brake.



“You can see LVD is a family business: it responds quickly and develops as much as possible in house, just like us.”



Gé, Monique and Harry Groenenboom

Gicom sees LVD as the ideal partner. “We are a family-run business, we adapt quickly, make everything ourselves and fix everything quickly. This is a strength that you can also see at LVD,” says Gé Groenenboom, founder of Gicom.

Gicom has grown from the engineering and construction of mushroom growing systems and composting technology to become a large and versatile metalworking company with over 130 employees. All of the systems that the company has developed over time, such as

the systems for manure treatment, organic waste, air filtering, herb drying, have become fully-fledged product groups which have enabled Gicom to build up a good reputation in the market. To do so, the company manufactures all of the circuitry, sheet metal and assemblies in-house. “This allows us to adapt quickly and means that the customer has a single point of contact for the complete system. An additional advantage is that we also supply parts for the older generations ourselves and do not rely on suppliers,” Gé explains.

Delivery

“Because we produced all the sheet metal in-house, and had a large machine pool for doing so at an early stage, companies from the region soon came to us for supplies. Now supplies determine a large part of our turnover. And that share continues to grow because we respond quickly, deliver on time and the customer can rely on our high quality. Another reason is that from the beginning we have invested in machines, which allow us to process sheets of up to 6 m in length in aluminium, steel and stainless steel,” Gé stresses.



8 # LEADERS

A family-run business

“My desire was to also keep everything I had built up within the family. A family business is able to adapt more quickly because you don't have to hold elaborate meetings which means it can respond to situations and take decisions rapidly.” Last year his son and daughter joined the business and now Gé is able to focus on where the company will be in five years. Monique Groenenboom is now responsible for the day-to-day business in Biddinghuizen and his son Harry focuses on the manure-processing systems and marina-related activities.

LVD dominates the machine pool

Until two years ago, Gicom had two CO₂ laser cutting machines and six LVD press brakes. The continuation of the family business also meant work was done immediately on upgrading the machinery. This led to investments in the latest LVD *Phoenix 6020 6 kW* fiber laser for sheets up to 6 x 2 meters and an LVD *ToolCell Plus* press brake. They are both the first models of their kind to be delivered in the Benelux

region. “The new fiber laser cuts through 1 mm aluminum sheets at 80 m/min. Since we process a lot of aluminium with lengths of up to 6 m, that represents a huge improvement in efficiency for us. That's why we decided within six weeks of delivery to replace a CO₂ laser cutting machine with a second *Phoenix FL 6020 6 kW*,” says an enthusiastic Gé.

A large inventory of press brake tools

Gicom also wanted to purchase an LVD *ToolCell* for their press brake department. “Automatic tool changing on the *ToolCell* is a perfect solution for us, because we often need to switch tools which means we have to retool heavy punches and dies. The problem was that we have a large number of high tools, which did not fit on the *ToolCell*. Mathijs Wijn, Sales Manager at LVD: “That's why we developed the *ToolCell*

“The bent part should be 100% right straight away – first part right.”

220/40 Plus, with a working open height up to 670 mm, which accepts 231 mm punches and 130 mm dies. Gicom is the first customer to have an LVD *ToolCell Plus* with automatic tool changing for high tools and a second machine is now on order.”

“First part right”

Gicom are experiencing increasing demand for delivery of single units and small production runs. “That means you spend more time on changing tools, calling up programs, setting up stoppers and such. Automatic tool changing on the *ToolCell* is already a major factor that yields benefits. However, with single parts you want to avoid test bends for measuring and correcting the bend angle.” The bent part should be 100% right straight away – first part right. Mathijs Wijn: “The *ToolCell* is equipped for this purpose with the





patented *Easy-Form*[®] Laser adaptive bending system. *Easy-Form* performs an in-process measurement which ensures that the desired bend angle is achieved immediately.”

CADMAN-B

Offline programming from the job preparation stage is also another important condition for ensuring that the operator can start immediately. Mathijs Wijn: “Otherwise the press brake spends all that time waiting until the operator has programmed the product.” LVD does this using its own CADMAN-B software. First, it carries out a feasibility test on the job preparation, in which the plate layout is calculated. In other words, the bending allowances have already been compensated for directly in the unfolded part. Then the press brake program is ready and the unfolded part can be loaded into the controller for the laser. “This means that initially programming a job onto the press brake controller so that we

can determine the correction for the bending angle and the plate layout is eliminated,” Mathijs explains.

Doing business with LVD since 2004

Gicom has been doing business with LVD for 13 years. Gé: “These are technically advanced machines. In addition, LVD is a family business and you can see that from the fact that it responds quickly and develops as much as possible in house, just like us. On both sides, that has resulted in a long-term relationship. It is a family business, where you are not a number and can always be in direct contact because of the short lines of communication.”

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Profile

Company: Gicom

Website: www.gicom.nl

Since: 1984

Works with: mild steel, stainless steel, aluminium, hardox, ...

Industry: Composting systems, sheet metalworking

Equipped with:

- 1 PPEB-H press brake
- 4 Easy-Form press brakes
- 1 PPEC press brake
- 2 ToolCell 220 ton Plus
- 2 Phoenix FL 6020 6 kW

Software: CADMAN-B, CADMAN-L, CADMAN-JOB, Touch-B, Touch-L control

