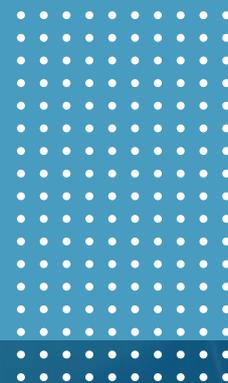


24 # LEADERS

INTEC MKD

KRIŽE, SLOVENIA



For Intec, investing in new equipment every five years is crucial to deliver precision sheet metal work at a competitive price and with a quick turnaround. Managing Director Milan Zupančič speaks about the company's most recent investment.

Intec MKD in Križe, Slovenia, fabricates metal components for the European electronics industry, and can count **Siemens, Rexroth Bosch** and **Danfoss** among its customers. Typical for this market are complex components with high tolerance requirements and often short life cycles.

Smooth laser cutting

The *Sirius* CO₂ laser system helps Intec MKD generate prototypes quickly, in a wide variety of materials and material thicknesses without investing in tooling.

"We were using punching and bending equipment to prototype, but the cost of the tooling and the delivery time for the tooling forced us to use outside laser cutting services," explains **Milan Zupančič**.

In addition to rapid prototyping, the laser has helped Intec MKD broaden its scope beyond electronics to process precision components for medical applications and to handle more challenging materials such as stainless steel in thicknesses greater than 2 mm.

The *Sirius* was Intec MKD's first laser cutting system and its automated features and user-friendly operation has made the acclimation to laser cutting technology a smooth one.

"The learning curve is critical," says Zupančič. "You need to get the technology, plug it in and use it, no nursing time. That's the nature of our business."

Automation lifts image

Intec MKD's laser system features a 10 pallet *Compact Tower* for fully automated material loading, unloading, storage and retrieval. The compact size of the machine with material warehousing system was decisive as floor space at the facility is limited.

"Automation gives us consistency and better throughput from the machine," explains Zupančič.

"The investment in automation is partly marketing driven. Key suppliers do business with us because we have the best knowledge and technology, and so we need to invest in this good image."

Intec MKD has also added robot assisted bending. The consistency of the laser cut parts ensures the accuracy of downstream operations such as robotic bending.

The company uses LVD's offline CADMAN®-L programming software to create time studies of new parts which help generate project estimates. This aids in assigning

"The learning curve is critical, you need to get the technology, plug it in and use it, no nursing time. That's the nature of our business."

work based on the best technology for the product.

Consistently accurate bending

Intec MKD first turned to LVD technology with the purchase of a PPEB press brake. Precision machinery with the ability to handle long parts in a single pass was vital.

Most of Intec MKD's press brakes feature LVD's patented *Easy-Form*® laser adaptive bending system which assures parts are produced accurately from the first piece. This technology is especially cost-effective for low volume parts.

"If you have low volumes, you cannot spend two or three attempts to set the correct angle for the prototype. We need to make the correct bend on the first attempt."

The company's more recent models of *Easy-Form* press brakes also feature LVD's *TOUCH* control, an icon driven touch screen CNC control. Intec MKD's growing pool of younger workers have quickly adapted to the intuitive nature of the control.

Flexibility provides an "in"

The flexibility of advanced laser cutting and bending equipment gives Intec MKD the edge it needs to compete in the European market and to broaden its business horizons.

Zupančič: "Clients are looking for us to support their business. This new equipment is more productive and it's very important for us to have the top machinery."

Profile

Company: Intec MKD

Website: <http://www.intec.si>

Since: 1974

Industry: fabrication of metal components for the electronics industry

Equipped with: 1 *Sirius* laser cutting system with *Compact Tower* and 8 PPEB and *Easy-Form*® Series press brakes

Software: *CADMAN*®-L, *CADMAN*®-B, *TOUCH*-L, *TOUCH*-B control

"Automation gives us consistency and better throughput from the machine."

