



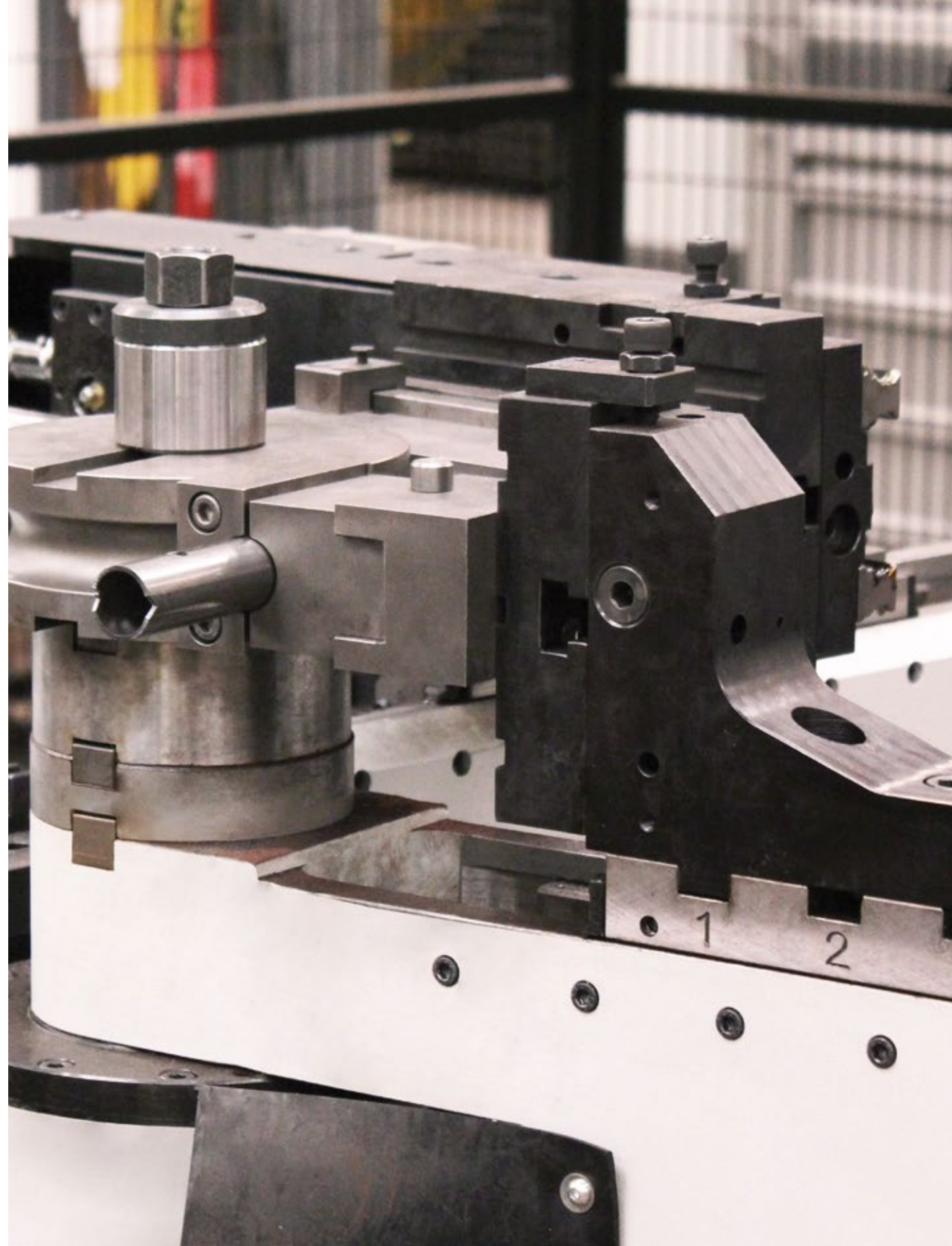
14

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

LASER CUTTING AND BENDING: MADE FOR EACH OTHER

DUPONT MEDICAL

Dupont Medical has over 150 years of experience in medical equipment manufacturing. It was probably the first French company to install a Lasertube system upstream of a tube bender. Years later, the laser + bending combination makes even more sense and offers exciting new functionalities.



15

Dupont Medical was established in 1847 as “Lit Dupont” and manufactured hospital beds. Since then, many events have marked the history of this company based near the beautiful city of Nancy in France including the recent acquisition by the US group, Drive Medical.

Production Manager Mr. Nicolas Bourgogne describes the company for us: “In this 12,900 m² plant we employ 115 people and generate a turnover of approximately 30 million Euros. All our products are designed, designed and engineered here”.

DIVERSIFIED PRODUCTION

Dupont Medical products are divided into several product lines - Mobility, Adage, Samery, Colson and Healthy - covering virtually all sectors of medical equipments: motorized hospital beds, various types of mobility chairs and wheelchairs, systems for lifting patients and diagnosis devices for medical staff.

Its Customers include public hospitals which buy thru' medical equipment suppliers to private single customers who may purchase these products in a pharmacy. As a result, the production is well diversified. “Every day we get orders for a given number of each product and in order to manufacture them we need fast, efficient, high-productivity systems and at the same time also accurate”, Mr. Bourgogne explained.



THE FIRST LASERTUBE SYSTEM IN FRANCE

Many of the products such as chairs, beds and lifting equipment contain tubular elements that have holes and end cuts, have to be bent and then must be assembled and welded together to form frames or sub-systems used in lifting equipment. It is not a coincidence that Dupont Medical has a long-lasting and consolidated relationship with BLM GROUP companies.

In 1998, an NC842 an automatic tube bending machine and a Lasertube LT651 was purchased from BLM Group. The Lasertube LT651 was to replace an old sawing machine which had also been supplied by ADIGE. This was probably the first Lasertube system to be installed in France, confirmation of Dupont Medical's foresight and focus on innovation.

"In 2014, we purchased a Lasertube LT5 system and an ELECT-M tube bending machine from BLM GROUP, but our choice of the supplier was far from automatic", explained Bourgogne. "We have productivity and efficiency objectives in mind whenever we buy a new machine. These factors are more important than others and for this reason we carefully evaluated all the major suppliers before selecting the BLM GROUP once again".

With regards to the LT5 system, Bourgogne explained that the fiber laser was a key element in the decision because ADIGE was the only company to offer one. "We believe that faster cutting speed, reduced maintenance resulting from the absence of optical chain and reduced power consumption are all very important advantages", he declared.

ELECT-M is an All-Electric bending machine and it means it is accurate, repeatable and above all has shorter set-up times. "With such a diversified production, the production volumes for each part are never high and consequently the set-up time is very crucial for us". B-TOOLS, which helps to produce "First piece right" and the detection of the pre-cut holes and subsequent automatic orientation of the tubes to be bent, are also highly appreciated by Bourgogne.



A company, which started using Lasertube systems so early, does not look back and is sure to find BLM GROUP as a partner capable of providing technology with complete automation for tube processing. "We have considerably increased the level of automation. Today, one single operator works on both the systems", concluded Mr. Bourgogne. BLM GROUP is proud to have contributed to the success of a company with such a long tradition.