

TMC Supplies tubular components directly to the assembly lines of Italian Honda with a very low defective level.

The “5S” of the Kaizen

Going through the doors of TMC S.r.l. in Vasto, it would be easy to believe you were entering a Japanese factory: at the centre of the workshop you can clearly see a large, dominant poster with the famous “5S” of the Kaizen, continuous improvement.

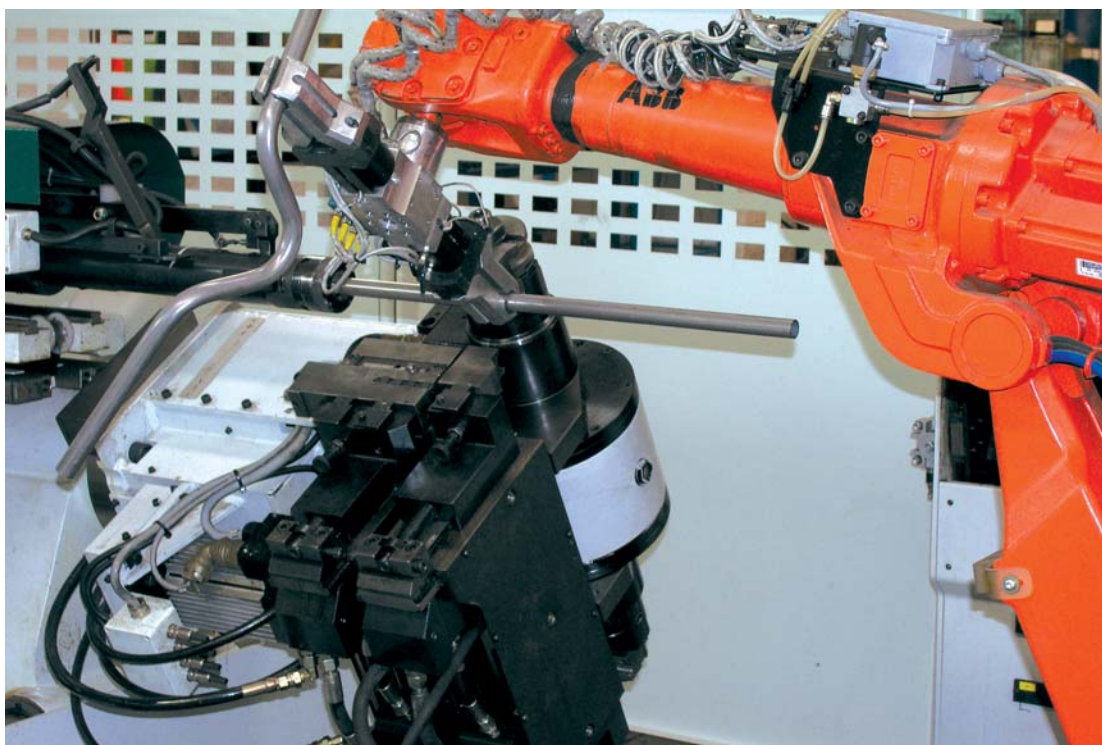
Mr Gabriele Tumini, who runs this Italian company, decided some years ago that in order to supply the Japanese successfully, it was necessary to find a “common denominator”.

And the “continuous improvement” culture became, at once, the principal practise at TMC, enabling them to become one of the few firms which supplies Italian Honda and which guarantees the

supply of components with a defective level of 0,0015 – 0,0019 ppm (parts per million). A good result, achieved thanks to reliability (on time delivery), quality (ISO9001, ISAO 14001 and Vision 2000 certification) and efficiency (good quality to price ratio).

100% inspection of all components.

TMC s.r.l. employs around 90 people, producing tubular components ready for assembly and metal component. The tubular components are used in the motorcycle sector (handlebars, stands, frames), in high quality furniture, and sports equipment. With its wealth of expertise in tube manipulation, TMC carries out all the aspects tube fab-





rication: cutting to length, bending, end forming, welding, finishing and 100% inspection of all components, and then delivering, just in time, directly on to the Honda assembly lines. Included amongst its other customers are Fiat, Sevel, Pilkington and Denso and Knoll.

1.2 million pieces every year.

Visiting his workshop, it is evident that Mr Tumini, has reached these results by investing in the most advanced BLM tube forming technology.

In fact, they have installed two BLM fully automatic working cells. The first one is capable of producing 1.2 million pieces per annum and works on three shifts, with an integrated robot continuously loading and unloading between a BLM Swing Tube Bender and a BLM Tube form End-former.

Such has been the success of this first cell; a second has been recently installed.

Many of the major advantages these BLM manufacturing solutions have provided were not so self evident.

Obviously there are the traditional benefits of reduced cycle times and the possibility to work lights out.

However TMC now find they enjoy a workflow with almost perfect optimization, rejects have been reduced to acceptable levels, the management flexibility of the cell for batch work has eliminated other non-efficient machines/processes from the production cycle, there are no pallets of semi-manufactured components (work-in-progress) around the workshop and the peak efficiency of the welding lines has been greatly improved.

But Mr. Tumini's greatest satisfaction is taking the development of his company to a higher level or competency, with partner suppliers with the same work belief, and customers who recognise the value of good work.

The fundamental given is that of trust in the customer and the acceptance of an equal supplier/customer partnership not just of supplier exploitation.

TMC s.r.l.

Zona Industriale Punta Penna
66054 Vasto (CH)
tel. 0873 3108.1
fax. 0873 3108.228
e-mail: info@tmcvasto.com