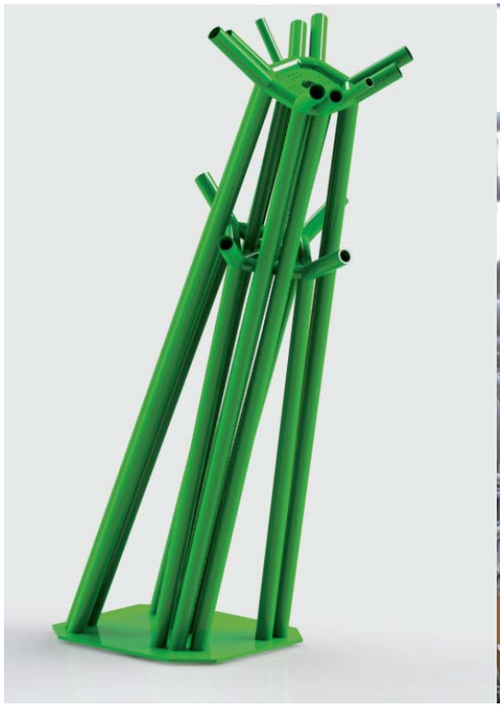
the right machine

Therefore, CMM's production philosophy focuses on the customer and his needs, which is an ideology that fully reflects the mission of Gruppo Manni HP to which it belongs, creating value: That is, to be the Customers' preferred partner in terms of quality and the ability to interpret and foresee their needs, ensuring the company, collaborators and customers a profitable growth. To partner with suppliers in order to build solid and stable working relations, focusing on development and knowledge sharing.

"The turning point in the CMM activity took place in '89 when the first NC punching systems were installed" continues Mr. Ghirardi. "I had broken my arm and I could not work with the hammer, so I had to start working with the computer. During a downturn in the construction industry, we began to work for CIFA producing units for concrete mixers, and in 1995 it was time to introduce laser cutting in the company. We started with a system for cutting sheet metal, which included a tube processing module and since then came our interest in this fundamental structural element. That's when we had a meeting with ADIGE for the purchase of the first laser tube system, a TT651 system for cutting round, square and rectangular tube."



It was an immediate success and soon after the first machine, followed a second one and then a third, and so on. Today, CMM has about 75 permanent employees in two facilities of about 6,500 square metres each, one for sheet metal working and the other dedicated to manufacturing tubes, as mentioned before.

The 12 m discharge an important advantage

CMM has actually followed step by step the evolutionary history of the ADIGE products first followed by the ADIGE-SYS products. "For a contractor is important to have the right machine for each job." This is how Mr. Ghirardi explains the philosophy that led him to create a tube processing division that probably has no equal in Italy. Mr. Ghirardi has purchased the TT652, LT 702, LT712, LT Combo, up to the most recent LT8 system from ADIGE and ADIGE-SYS. Luigi appreciates the latter, in particular, whose main characteristics offer many opportunities due to the dual discharge system and the possibility of processing bars up to 12 m. The latter feature, in particular, has brought about considerable savings. "In the case of 2,200 mm workpieces, we can start from 12 m bars (obtaining 5 pieces per rod) instead of 6 m bars (obtaining 2 pieces per rod). Obviously in the first case the material quantity is lower. This is an important advantage in many cases. Furthermore, the machine is also competitive on shorter lengths because it has an 8.5 m automatic loading system (loading the entire bundle) on the opposite side, thus involving a considerable reduction in handling and consequently in the time required.
Continuing with the principle of the right machine for each job, thanks to the merger with Gruppo Manni of Verona, CMM has found the courage to make a quality leap with the purchase of the LT JUMBO system to cut pipes up to 508 mm in diameter with a 16 mm thickness. The goal was to enter the construction, port, airport, bridge and railways market. In reality, the machine arrived just at the outbreak of the crisis and the application of lasers in these fields has not yet developed as it could be. "Nevertheless, we have invested heavily in the LT JUMBO product and particularly in training of our technicians so that they can cut beams; this is what makes the difference. But in the end we have been able to obtain products where others stop. Nowadays, CMM is able to meet virtually any requirement in the field of tube cutting. The secret lies not only in the machines, but also in the technical department that provides the essential design support to the customer" and this allows CMM to have many customers in the most diverse sectors.

50 m in length and only a one cm error

The interesting project that we mentioned at the beginning, in which CMM has played an important role that is certainly worthy of mention, relates to the subway station of Piazza Garibaldi in Naples. The design by the French architect Dominique Perrault provides a tube structure over three levels. Only the third level will be visible from the square and it will only partially cover the square, while the two lower levels will include the metro station itself and an intermediate level which will contain a shopping centre.

The project is now three-quarters complete and requires the use of approximately 700 tons of tube for a structure that externally is 17 m high, 50 m wide and 254 m long. The architect drew up a rough draft without necessarily assuming the use of the laser. Only later did Carannante, the company responsible for implementing the executive project, avail itself of the collaboration and laser-cutting expertise of CMM for the implementation of the nodes.

> "About 80% of the structure has been produced with the LT JUMBO system - says Luigi - and use of the laser has allowed us to develop unique joints that have made it much easier and more accurate to assemble in place."

The tubes that run to each node were cut in CMM and sent on site in an appropriately marked bundle in order to easily proceed with the of assembly and welding phases. The nodes were assembled and welded on the ground, as far as possible, and then when put in place the connections to the structure, welds, followed by sand-blasting, galvanizing, sanding and painting on site were completed. The fact that when the structure was finished an entire bay of 50 m in length deviated by just one cm. is significant.

It is certainly not the only example of large structures in which CMM has cooperated; the light towers commissioned for the USA can also be mentioned, which consisted of 15,000 pieces of tube measuring 12.5 m each, or the off-shore towers commissioned for Russia, where 300 mm long, 20 mm thick beams form 60 m high towers.... But let's leave something to talk about for next time and we wish this important Italian company all the best in its work.