

Aalbers in the Netherlands have made great savings with reduced handling and changeover times with a combined tube and sheet metal laser

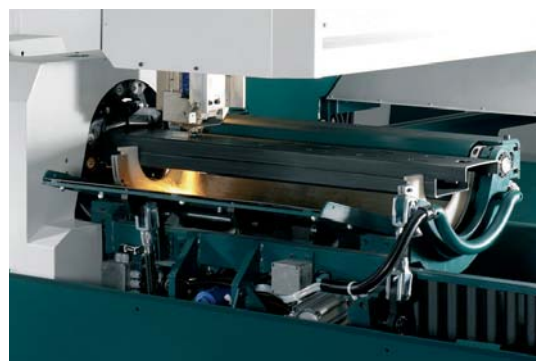
A **changeover** revolution!



each finished piece. Before, it used to take up to two days.

The company's production programme covers the manufacture of **special construction products** from security cages, ladders and awnings to urban furniture, and from special machinery to products for rehabilitation.

Special products created by Aalbers include book shelving for the Royal Library and structural elements for a restaurant in the form of a Zeppelin airship. At the core of their huge range, the company's business is however always focused on a limited number of special products that have particular characteristics.



The ADILAS2 laser cutting machine installed at the Aalbers factory in Renswoude is the first machine of its type in the Netherlands – there are only 35 installed in Europe so far. However the most significant achievement is in the **level of integration made between tube and sheet working on the machine**. It's this that has allowed a fundamental change in the company's production mentality: going from the welding of semi worked sheet to fitting them together with tubular structures now takes around twenty minutes for

"We have become a large company because we make everything," states Mr Aalberts, "but if we want to be an international player, **we need to become more specialised**. To survive in the Netherlands, we must always be very competitive and control labour costs. ADILAS2 fits perfectly with this vision."

Lower costs and short flow times

"The concept projects which are based on the ADILAS2's capabilities are both very simple and



very sophisticated at the same time. “confirmed Aalbers. “When we have to make a production change from sheet to tube, the transfer from the cutting table is made by a mobile carrier with eight centred gripping arms which can pick up tube to a maximum length of 6.5 metres directly from the warehouse stock.

The changeover is completely automatic by numerical control and takes less than three minutes. The whole production sequence for sheet metal and tube assemblies can be worked in a **single process and on a single machine.”**

Referring back to the old production methods, where the processes included sawing, punching, milling and stamping, Aalbers confirmed that there had now been considerable reductions in working cycle times, in handling processes and particularly in changeover times without any hidden costs.

As he said, the ADILAS2 machine **has greatly shortened the path to manufacturing rigid**

structures without traditional welding. A revolutionary change!

In the case of shop displays or shelves, for example, parts cut by ADILAS2 laser can be placed directly into a container and sent straight to the customer as a self assembly kit. This enables shorter lead times, a higher quality and more precise, aesthetic design not requiring specialised labour - which is extremely costly.

The first machine in the Netherlands

The system installed at Aalbers is powered by CO2 Rofin DC 035 with 3.5kW power able to cut up to 20mm in mild steel and 12mm in stainless steel. CNC controls the optimum working parameters during the operation cycle (power and cutting speed). It is the first machine of its type in the Netherlands.

ADILAS2 can cut tubes and profiles up to 225mm diameter and sheet metal up to 1.500mm x 3.000mm. A magazine tower is included.

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