



ALDETU, S.A.

ALDETU

A PERFECT SYMBIOSIS OF MACHINE AND EXPERIENCE

Since 1983 Aldetu is dedicated to the production of customized parts through the transformation and processing of steel tubes, with and without welding. It works mainly for the automotive and industrial vehicle sectors, transforming about 600 tons of tube per month into a wide variety of parts, mainly bushings of all kinds, producing up to 3 million per month. For these productions Aldetu has always relied on BLM GROUP, whose machines make it possible to satisfy the demanding automotive sector.



Aldetu, a Basque company located in the city of Lemoa, was founded by Javier Aldecoa, to do the thing he knew best: the processing and transformation of pipe.

In 1983, the company he worked for, in a responsible role, closed its doors and he was ready to make a radical change in his life thus creating Aldetu.

His first products were supports for tractor ploughs and other similar parts that allowed him to develop the strategy he still maintains today: buying raw tube and transforming it according to the customer's needs. In short, Aldetu performs a process of cleaning, stripping, lengthening and straightening the tubes. He can stretch the tube up to 40%, giving them the thickness required for each application. Javier Aldecoa explains: *“By buying the raw tube we start from a cheaper raw material, but, above all, we get the great advantage of being flexible by having all the dimensions available at any time. We are not totally dependent on suppliers and we can handle*

small orders without waiting for them to provide us with the material.” The variety of parts that come out of Aldetu is impressive and its customers include high-level companies such as Robert Bosch, Ford, John Deere, ZF Lemförder, Monroe Tenneco, Delphi Automotive, CSA Castellón Automotive, Caucho Metal Productos, BWI Group and Gestamp.

The role of ADIGE - BLM GROUP

The collaboration with BLM GROUP began immediately in 1983 with the purchase of a cut-off machine to cut the rocker shafts of the Ford Fiesta that was being produced in Valencia. The starting idea was always to adapt its production systems to what the market required in the direction of systems capable of performing more than one job. At the same time, ADIGE began to propose transfer machines that cut, moved the piece on a rotary table and machined the ends. Currently, in its 8,000 square meter facility, Aldetu has 12 BLM GROUP machines,

9 of which are multifunctional and among the latter, two are part of the most advanced range, the BC80. *“We opted for BLM GROUP,”* explains Javier Aldecoa, *“because I like the machine, it has a very powerful head and, above all, because we could work with them to get systems that incorporated the solutions we needed. From our point of view, this willingness to adapt their machines to our needs was fundamental”.* As Aldetu's CEO explains, *“the improvement in the production system achieved with the purchase of the two BC80 machines is impressive. Before, during cutting, burrs were generated on both sides that had to be eliminated on another machine, the tolerances were not adequate, the bushing had to be transferred manually to another machine, the piece had to be prepared by hand on both sides... an extremely laborious process.”*

The evolution has been progressive, fueled by the sharing of knowledge between BLM GROUP and Aldetu. Beveling and machining were included on the same machine enabling Aldetu to reach production rates of 2,000 pieces in 8 hours. Today, with the new machines and a team of experienced people, up to 9,000 parts are produced in 8 hours. Both Javier Aldecoa and Maintenance Manager Juan Luis Elorza, a key element in Aldetu's structure today, know that the company could not be competitive in the market without these machines. *“With the two newest machines, we produce about 900,000 pieces per month. BLM GROUP technology together with our knowledge allow us to minimize the cost per part. For example, in selecting the most suitable discs and the production methods that generate the least wear on the discs themselves. Out of so many thousands of parts, a penny can be the difference between being competitive or not.”* When asked about the improvements in the last two acquisitions of the BC80 model, Aldetu managers highlight its reliability, tube feed system, turning and horizontal cutting, with its consequent advantages in

spindle maintenance and reduced breakdowns. System maintenance is another key aspect in a factory working on three shifts, and Aldecoa reports that they particularly appreciate the fast, quality technical service offered by BLM GROUP.

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