

# ***GUST. ALBERTS GMBH & CO. KG***

NEW DIMENSION OF EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY

In early 2018, GAH Alberts (Gust. Alberts GmbH & Co. KG) put the first LT7 into production in Germany. With the fastest Lasertube on the market, the company has significantly expanded its capacity in processing tubes and profiles. Above all, it benefits from the very high efficiency and quality of production of the machine.

*“Since 2016, our LT8 has worked almost continuously over three shifts”,* explains Christian Anheier. Anheier, the production management assistant, recommended to management the need to invest in a new LT7. With it, GAH Alberts could shift some of the production from the LT8, thus considerably expanding its produc-





tion capacity. *“With the LT7, BLM GROUP has once again considerably increased productivity in tube laser cutting. In addition, we use our innovative technology to produce the highest quality faster and more safely. We have recognized both as a competitive advantage for us,”* Anheier completes the picture.

**Thousands of parts, most of them unique**

In addition, the new machine is flexible, in other words, able to cover a wide range of machining processes on different types of tubes, with different weights and diameters. All over Europe and beyond

the continent borders, GAH Alberts is well known as producer of thousands of high-quality metal components for craftsmen, professionals, and hobbyists. That alone makes it clear why the traditional “hardware factory” needs versatile production systems. These systems are the backbone of the industrial services division, which is constantly growing. In fact, GAH Alberts acts as a service provider for many sectors such as steel construction, commercial vehicles and office furniture. Thanks to the wide range of machining capabilities, it is able to produce complete metal assemblies from a single source. These solutions are often small series or exclusive items that the company develops and produces for its customers.

**High automation level and shorter configuration times**

It is evident, only with machines that have a high degree of automation and with great flexibility to allow fast job changes can production in such a market be economical. The Lasertube systems fully meet these criteria, so Anheier, Business Manager who has worked for many years in the world of subcontracting and knows the multiple demands of this market, explains: *“Today we use the LT7 for the majority of subcontracting”*.



For large size batches, GAH Alberts benefits from the extremely high speed of laser cutting and the evolved system concept, developed for maximum productivity. Currently, LT7 is the new flagship among the Lasertube family of BLM GROUP.

**The machine plays an important role in ensuring quality**

The LT7 includes a host of innovative features, including Active Tools. These intelligent functions allow the Lasertube to automatically optimize various production processes, thus ensuring efficiency and quality.

GAH Alberts measures tube and profile geometries before cutting using the patented Active Scan function. Thanks to the values acquired, the machine can compensate any errors due to deformation automatically, during cutting. *“The measurement process lasts just one second. Therefore, we don’t waste time and always produce with guaranteed quality”*, Anheier affirms. If necessary, the measured values may be used to support the decisions made with reference to the quality of the material used.

The Active Marking function allows you to mark the parts automatically and dynamically, for example, with a sequential number.



*“All these automatic functions contribute to the extremely short set-up times of this machine and in turn to its high productivity”*, Anheier explains. In the whole, these production support tools are exceptional and have contributed to the decision to partner with BLM GROUP and to buy the LT7.

**More parts produced at the end of the day**

Anheier: *“With the LT7, our operators do not need to change grippers or other mechanical parts”*. This also contributes to reduce production changeover times to a minimum and therefore to obtain high machine productivity. GAH Alberts wanted to use the new Lasertube to replace an old system used for simultaneous cutting and piercing.



Ultimately, the cycle rates with the LT7 have more than doubled with respect to similar technology. Anheier: *“Before this investment, we investigated the market very carefully and concluded that the LT7 works up to 10% more efficiently compared to the other lasertube machines of the same category”*. At the end of the day, with LT7, GAH Alberts has produced many more parts than what would have been possible with other systems.

**Linked process**

Another positive point of the LT7 is the easy integration of the BLM GROUP software with other software used in our company. The LT7 control software has been connected to the data collection

program and the ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system used by GAH Alberts. The company is considering to add automation for finished parts removal from the laser unloading tables in order to make machine operator tasks easier. This would be the next step of integration towards Industry 4.0. With the LT7 it will be easily achievable.

*“At the end, only two suppliers, adopting different concepts for tube laser cutting - for example material handling - were found suitable. Previous experience with this technology, expertise, and the reliability of the people and service convinced us to choose BLM GROUP for the new machine.”*





The LT7 was delivered and commissioned on a public holiday in the first half of May 2018. Production could start from the exact moment when it was installed. Our operators were already familiar with the BLM GROUP software due to the LT8. Nonetheless, GAH Alberts sent its operators, developers and technicians to attend a one-week training, at ADIGE, in Levico Terme, to prepare for the new machine.

**Extremely easy to use by the operator**

*“The BLM GROUP software is undoubtedly easy to use. For the majority of our customer’s parts, our operators, thanks to Artube, can start immediately production”*, Anheier confirms. On the other parts, which are designed with CAD systems or imported as 3D models of entire assemblies, it is possible to make changes to optimize, for example, interlocking joints.

**Relaxed production**

GAH Alberts utilizes both machines in a 2-shift operation. As a result, the company has two shifts as a buffer during peak periods. This also benefits the machine operators. Working has become much more relaxed for them – and thanks to the performance features of the new laser, it has become even more interesting and easier. Furthermore, with the second laser, GAH Alberts has a back-up in case one of the tube lasers should have downtimes, for example for maintenance.

With the LT7 the company cuts mainly steel, but also aluminum and in an increasing percentage. One example is the advertising walls with aluminum frames

that were shown in the background of the interviews with the players at the last DFB Cup on television. New possibilities of what can be accomplished with the machine are always being discovered and it is often possible to do more than what BLM GROUP indicates in the LT7 brochure. *“We also machined 250 x 6 mm sheet metal strips in automatic mode”*, Anheier confirms to conclude.

works up to  
**LT7 +10%**

efficiently compared to the other laser tube machine of the same category