



Kao Chang Precision Industry Co., Ltd. installed the first LT8 lasertube in Taiwan. Thanks to the experience gained during the year that the LT8 was installed, Lu Chin Tsai, President of Kao Chang, was able to fulfil both simple orders for furnishings or metal structures and decisively complex processes.

The first lasertube in Taiwan

In May 2012, Kao Chang Precision Industry Co., Ltd. installed the first LT8 LASERTUBE in Taiwan at the plant in Kaohsiung. It is no coincidence that Mr. Lu Chin Tsai, President of Kao Chang was the first to make this investment on the island. In fact, in addition to being one of the largest subcontractors in the area he has also had a strong inclination to invest in innovative technology ever since he started his business in 1990.

The activity started with 20 employees as a sheet metal subcontractor and a 0.7 kW CO₂ laser. Thinking about these power values almost makes you smile nowadays but at the time it was the first machine in South Taiwan and there were only three installed throughout the country. After 23 years Kao Chang has become a group of three companies with a total head count of 200 employees.

The turning point was 10 years ago when they



began to produce for exporting: Konzern Laser Precision Co. Ltd. with 70 employees specialised in manufacturing slot machines and similar products for casinos; Gold Chains Sheet Metal Tech Co. Ltd. with 100 employees working as a sheet metal subcontractor, and Kao Chang Precision Industry with 30 employees dealing with the production of tubes, as well as sheet metal, which is developing a new product line of its own.

A lasertube pioneer

The approach to purchase the LT8 lasertube system actually took place many years ago when Mr. Lu visited both BLM and ADIGE in Italy to understand which direction the European market was taking and what would be the result of the Asian and Taiwan market. This was a remarkable foresight. Investing in the lasertube process was not a random move but followed a clear long-term strategy.

In fact, Mr. Lu was acknowledged as being the lasertube pioneer in Taiwan as he understood well before the others that to create demand required investment first.

"Had we not had the machine beforehand, customers would not have given us orders." There was no other way. Mr. Lu is aware though of how important it is now to create a widespread recognition and acceptance of this technology in terms of both supply and demand so that it becomes as popular as laser cutting of sheet metal.

So in March 2013 he organized an open house at the new facility in Kaohsiung where more than 200 people came, including customers and suppliers. The LT8 system, as well as other avant-garde sheet metal processing lines, was the main attraction, being a new and unusual technology for the island.

It is easy to develop new products

During the year in which the LT8 was installed, the experience gained made it possible to fulfil both simple orders for furnishings of metal structures and much more complex processes such as heat exchanger batteries for solar panels with a unique design. These are structures that combine both tubular and sheet metal processing, which are then assembled and welded.

The ease of working with the typical repeatability and precision levels of the LT8 allow the machining processes to be performed without

any problem and simplifying the assembly and welding work that follows.

The use of the single-bar loader has proved very useful, as it allows a large number of orders for small batches, which are very popular for some applications, to be carried out. Another strong point is the ease of developing new products, which thanks to the ARTUBE programming software allows production to be started quickly, minimizing waste and errors.

With this type of technology and production equipment Mr. Lu believes he can take the next step towards the company's development: alongside subcontract work, he intends to create products directly at Kao Chang. In this way, he would have total control over all phases of the product from the design to production and sales.

President Mr. Lu Chin Tsai's strategy for the future is very clear: investing in second-generation systems and high-tech manufacturing processes for the development of both tube and sheet metal.

From left to right: Lu Wen Hiao, Administrative Manager, Lu Chin Tsai, President and Lu Jin Jung, General Manager.