

CNC controlled tube benders boost the processing of tubular components for the automotive industry.

When the tube bender becomes a star performer



Giflo Engineering specialises in manufacturing tubular type components for the automotive industry, products include the smaller water, oil and fuel pipes, the larger bull, roll, nudge and side impact bars and tubular rear bumpers. Other components include roof racks, seat frames, dipstick tubes, breather tubes, hood supports, various mounting brackets, protectors, spare wheel carriers, chassis frames, and stainless steel aesthetical components. Located in northern Pre-

toria, South Africa, in the Ga-Rankuwa Industrial Park, the company has steadily increased its collection of BLM CNC tube bending equipment, strongly improving their tube manipulation process and capability. They now have four machines with a fifth shortly to follow.

Italian Origins

Giflo Engineering was established in 1972 by two Italian immigrants, Alfonso Benassi and Livio Floresco, to manufacture jigs and fixtures for Alfa Romeo and FIAT in South Africa. The third partner, Dante Altieri, who had been working for Nissan South Africa, joined the company in 1984. The majority shareholding of Giflo Engineering was sold in 1996 to Argent Industrial Holdings, a company listed on the South African JSE Securities Exchange.

The Argent group has 18 operations, 17 in South Africa and one in the US, and Giflo is one of the stars of the group. With over 340 employees and headed up by MD Jan Taljaard, Giflo now supplies the majority of the OEM's in South Africa, including Daimler Chrysler, General Motors and from this year, Toyota pickup vans.

The next time you find yourself driving on the road behind a pickup van, take a look at the steel back





bumper because it is almost certain to be an Argent group product. This is because Giflo supplies virtually all pick up van back bumpers and a large majority of their roll bars.

Combining fixed and variable radius bending.

Giflo mainly process tube diameters 44, 63 and 76mm, though products range from tube diameters 8mm up to 130mm. Productivity depends on the orders flow and varies from 50,000 pieces per year for the small components, to 18,000 per year for the bigger ones. Such volumes demand the output and reliability associated with the four BLM tube benders and the AST80NC end-forming machine, the pride and strength of their tube pro-

cessing department.

Giflo Engineering purchased the first tube bender in 1983, when it won a contract with one of the local OEMs, and is now waiting for its fifth BLM Bender, a Dynam3, to bend tubes up to OD 63mm. Designed for four stack bending or for four tool stacks; using formed clamp jaws to bend components where there is little or no straight between bends; and where combined fixed and variable radii bending is required on the same component. This machine will complement their much bigger BLM Dynam 8 a 5-axes CNC tube bender with a capacity 130mm diameter. Their other BLM CNC tube benders include: NC880, capacity OD 80mm, the NC832, capacity OD 32mm; and the NC863, capacity OD 63.5mm.

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