PRESS RELEASE: NEW GENERATION AMADA ALPHA LASER BOOSTS WORKFLOW AND QUALITY

Constructed to provide high-quality, high-productivity sheet-metal cutting, AMADA has released the fifth generation of its highly reliable and popular LC-α (Alpha) CNC laser profiling centre. Among the machine's principal features is a new brush table, which replaces the previous roller bearing table, an optimised laser engine, the AMADA Digital Support System (ADSS) and the company's latest AMNC 3i controller. The machine received its European debut at the Blechexpo 2017 trade fair in Stuttgart, Germany, orders were received on the first day of the show.

The new high-density brush table offers two key advantages. Firstly, increased pick repeatability when using AMADA automated part removers, due to improved component support. This makes the Alpha V design ideal for automation with its higher speed component extraction, serving to improve workflow and decrease part costs. Secondly, the brush table reduces the need for finishing/secondary operations ensuring high product quality straight off the laser.

An optimised laser engine in the new Alpha V facilitates increases in cut quality and cutting speeds. Furthermore, a nozzle cleaning system provides improved processing stability. Indeed, the Alpha V processes faster, more reliably and more efficiently than ever before.

From an operations perspective, the latest AMNC 3i controller is purpose-designed to provide simple, intuitive use, facilitating straightforward and quick staff training. Furthermore, the addition of ADSS offers continuous machine and production monitoring, presenting the opportunity to implement lean manufacturing and proactive maintenance strategies to ensure up time is maximised.

"The new Alpha V builds upon the success of our proven Alpha laser series, the most successful hybrid-style laser cutter globally with over 3,800 units delivered since its introduction in 1993,"

states Matt Wood, Laser Product Manager at AMADA Europe. “This fifth generation machine further increases the high level of automated part removal repeatability and constant scratch-reducing capabilities, whilst maintaining its core strength of high-quality production from its compact foot print”.

AMADA’s Alpha V is based on the proven hybrid machine design concept, whereby the sheet moves in the X axis and the laser head in the Y axis. This configuration offers users a number of unique possibilities. For instance, there is no cross-contamination of materials caused by dross metal remaining on the support table. This attribute is of particular relevance in industries where hygiene and cleanliness are paramount, such as medical and food, and avoids the need to run two separate machines or to constantly batch parts together, which complicates production schedules.

The Alpha V also avoids marking or spatter on the underside of components, which can be critical where there are high cosmetic requirements, such as polished and brush stainless steel components. The ability to run oversize parts is another advantage; despite being a single-bed, compact design, the Alpha V offers repositioning capability to process sheet sizes of 4m or more. Further benefits include a long-life bed, no part tip-up and easy part removal with a full width, wide opening work chute.

Due to the exceptional build quality and longevity of AMADA machines, records show there are Alpha lasers in the field over 20 years old. While still performing reliably, modern industry requirements have changed. Delivery demands and quality specifications have increased, driving the need for greater capacity and repeatability. Here, machines such as the new Alpha V offer higher levels of automation and the ability to reduce or eliminate secondary operations, so provides rapid ROI for those prepared to upgrade. Many of the new features come from listening closely to existing users. The outcome is an upgraded series of laser machines that can cut materials with faster speed, higher quality and greater ease-of-use.

Clearly, for those new to AMADA Alpha hybrid laser technology, including any general subcontract shops, these benefits can offer genuine competitive gain. The unique AMADA Alpha V offers an attractive proposition to those looking to streamline their production.

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