

New 2-D laser cutter able to handle big jobs

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The laser cutting industry has been introduced to a new machine that aims to work quickly and accurately in large work areas, while boosting productivity and decreasing downtime.

Designer and manufacturer of industrial laser cutting machines and systems Prima Industrie, through its South African distributor of international capital equipment, First Cut, has introduced its Maximo large cutting system, a large machine based on Prima's Platino two-dimensional (2-D) laser machine.

The Maximo is a complete Platino machine with its mechanical structure, as well as a laser generator, computer numerical control, moving carriages, optical chain and focusing head.

However, the Maximo also features a further Y2-axis, allowing it to move beyond the Y1-axis stroke.

First Cut director **Andrew Poole** asserts that this feature holds economic advantages, as more is offered to the sheet metal process. A patented solution for the main carriage guidance and isostatic support also results in quick and easy installation, as only two plinths of the same length of the Y2-axis stroke are needed.

"The machine also travels on rails over a fixed working table, processing sheets of any length, with the only limitation being the space available in the workshop," says Poole.

The Maximo can further be equipped with one- or more-piece supporting tables, with the length determined by the customer's demand, and the relevant devices for fume extraction and scrap collection.

First Cut director **Steve van Wyk** says that the Maximo piece remains fixed during the work process, while the machine moves to reach the area to be machined. "This architecture gives the system significant flexibility, as it matches the work area to the sheet metal to be processed," he points out.

He adds that the Maximo takes advantage of all Platino's features, making the machine reliable and easy to use, even for the less experienced operator. Other features of the machine include an adjustable focal position, allowing a variety of materials and thicknesses to be cut without manual interventions, thereby keeping the process accurate in the entire work area. It also features a rapid lens-changing system, offline 2-D computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing and the nesting software package for quick, easy and cost-effective programming.

The machine is also equipped with a fast-piercing unit for thicker ferrous materials, a laser piercing monitor and plasma monitoring, and automatic restart. "The Maximo aims to provide customers with operational peace of mind. First Cut is also fully trained technically to provide backup service and technical support," Poole concludes.
