

Storage system, everything revolves around you...

by Alessandra Frascini

A typical Italian history, Anapoli company has bet on domestic market, investing in a few years a substantial capital to renew and expand its fleet relying on a prepared and reliable technological partner: Prima Power. Let's look at the ingredients of this success...

The Anapoli Franco Officine is active since 1969 in Montecchio Precalcino (VI), in the engineering sector and in particular in sheet metal working on behalf of third parties for fume extraction systems, air treatment and furnishings. The company performs light carpentry work, laser cutting, punching, bending, and thanks to external collaborators, painting or other surface treatments on components made. Anapoli meets the needs of the market in a global way, thanks to a cooperation with the requests of the

customers which results in an increasingly growing development of skills and use of tools and software more and more technologically adequate.

The equipment and the machinery used are among the best current proposals in the field of sheet metal working: laser cutting, combined punching, panelling and bending systems, all automated, are selected by Anapoli so that the components built are able to offer the optimal quality possible, in terms of both accuracy and cost-effectiveness. Each product



To the left Franco Anapoli, founder of the company with his son Antonio, the new generation. Among senior leaders, even the wife of the founder who takes care of the administrative department.

request is examined in detail and all the possible issues are taken into account in order to offer proper advice to optimize the final result.

When Franco's son, Antonio, joined the company in 2000, he made the business to experience a new boost and invested in the further development of the machine fleet and in a new plant in Thiene (VI), of about 5.000 covered square meters.

Since late 2001, there has been a turning point in the company, the volumes of production capacity were remarkably enlarged to meet the increasingly demanding needs of both the market and Customers themselves. The production layout was redesigned by the insertion of a central storage system able to communicate with all production machines, a solution that can be expanded in volumes and connected systems. The latest purchase is a combined laser, bought early in 2012, which has completed a remarkable investment plan made in a few years.

The company, while maintaining its family values and identity, therefore has grown a lot with new

plants and equipment, succeeding at the same time in containing the labour, that has in turn lived a profound professional growth, becoming another of the strengths of the Officine Anapoli. The reference market of the company is the Italian one, satisfying the demands of leading customers in the global market.

Technological partnership. The technological partner who over the years has followed the evolution of Anapoli is Prima Power, Machinery Division of Prima Industrie Group, born from the union of two of the most important brands in the field of laser and sheet metal machinery, Prima Industrie and Finn-Power. Prima Industrie Group is listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (MTA-Star segment). Prima Power derives its strength and expertise from 35 years of experience in laser and sheet metal machinery of the two companies that have made the history of the industry: Prima Industrie and Finn-Power. "Our range of products is one of the widest - says Riccardo Pellegrini from Prima Power Italia - ThePunch, TheLaser, TheCombi, TheBend, theSystem, theSoftware are the names of the product lines for punching, cutting, welding, 2 and 3D laser drilling, punching/shearing and punching/laser cutting integrated, bending, automation and software". The group has consolidated in 2011 a turnover of more than 300 million Euro, of which more than 5% is invested in research and development, and boasts the collaboration of about 1,400 employees. From production facilities in Italy, Finland, the USA and China machines and systems are shipped throughout the world, thanks to a presence in over 70 Countries, directly or through a network of specialized retailers that, up until today, has led to an installed fleet of machines consisting in over 10,000 systems. Prima Power relies on the cooperation of 7 R&D centres distributed between Italy, Finland and the USA.

Given the wide range of products offered by the group, the markets on which to operate are many: from automotive to aerospace and metal furniture up to the shop fitting, from hospital furniture up to kitchen units for centres, rack and electric generators, furniture accessories, lighting systems, elevators, air treatment, agricultural machines and even more. "The technological evolution reached allows meeting in the best possible way the expectations of our Customers, who, having the possibility of benefiting from multiple solutions and combinations thereof, can find the right response to any requirement, from extreme versatility up to mass production", Pellegrini stresses.



The up to date and automated machinery fleet. Each machine is programmed depending on the specific process needs and each utility is connected to the relevant raw material through boxes gathered in the storage unit.



The most up to date machinery fleet. Anapoli boasts a machinery fleet whose innovative features are difficult to match in the current market. A new automatic storage system, Night Train by Prima Power, FMS 5 series, which distributes and coordinates the work load to all the connected machines. The central unit of the NT, in fact, feeds both the cutting systems and the panelling machine. A central shuttle, by following the instructions of the programming work queues, ensures continuity by allowing both the supply of the raw metal sheet and the return of the semi-finished products to the storage unit. Various Prima Power machines are connected to the central storage unit: a 4kW power 2D cutting laser, L6 model; an SG6 punching/shearing machine, an LPe6 i.e. a servo-electric punching machine combined with a 2 kW fibre laser and an EBe4 servo-electric panelling machine.

Each machine is programmed according to the specific needs of the processing involved, therefore each utility is connected to the relevant raw material using boxes gathered in the storage unit housing the various raw materials intended for cutting. The maximum load capacity of each raw material box is equal to 3,000 kg and currently, in the Anapoli plant,

more than a hundred are those installed. The range of materials processed by the system is continually monitored and updated according to the different settings that the various production batches require. "The modern machinery fleet was our trump card, it enabled us to be very competitive in our marketplace, differentiating our offer from that of our competitors in terms of both quality and price. The plant works up to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even unattended", Antonio Anapoli stresses. The machines connected are capable of processing plates of different nature and thickness, depending on the characteristics of each plant (more technical insights are available at www.primapower.com).

The storage system. It actually constitutes a central communicating system, that, after loading the raw material, manages the production phases carried out by all several and different satellite machines. The machines are able to receive the raw material, always in compliance with the programming set, process it and return the semi-finished product placing it into the central storage system, in a separated or not separated way. The panelling machine can "recall" the semi-finished product from a linked unit, retrieve

*The servo-electric EBe4
panelling machine in operation.*



the various components, always in compliance with the programming set, and bend the various pieces. The process up to the bending is then completed in an independent way, from here on all the subsequent manual procedures are carried out. Each machine works independently, but all have in common the storage unit. Such a procedure made it possible to eliminate the handling of sheet metal on the outside, with a storage situation updated in real-time, traceable, better managing strategic stocks, while optimizing purchases. "Being contractors we do not need to stock up in the company, but rather reduce the possible stock of semi-finished products", says Anapoli.

"The case of the Anapoli company proves the wide range of the offer made available by Prima Power - Pellegrini concludes - a company that started working with a single processing cell, then integrated, according to the growth and the diversification of market demands, with other cells in a single management system".