



Automatic STOPA sheet-metal storage system extends capacity limits

SEEGER Lasertechnik GmbH, based in Lorsch, has lengthened its STOPA UNIVERSAL automatic sheet-metal storage system to accommodate sheets up to extra-large format XF. It has also set up an automatic connection to a laser cutting machine, significantly boosting productivity. The capacity was also increased. The original sheet-metal storage system was 7.5 metres high, 7 metres wide and about 31 metres long. Today it has a length of some 55 metres. The twin-mast storage and retrieval unit (SRU) achieves speeds of up to 100 metres per minute on this stretch. SEEGER took advantage of the expansion to incorporate additional stations.

Ready for the future

SEEGER, a system supplier, offers everything from a single source – from the design to the finished product. Its products include simple, ready-to-fit laser-cut parts, mass-produced items and complex assemblies with colour finishes. The laser-cut parts and assemblies are made of steel, high-grade steel, aluminium and non-ferrous me-

tals. The company's employees work six days a week in three shifts. The storage system is very flexible, accommodating raw materials in sizes up to 2,000 x 4,000 millimetres (XF) as well as semi-finished parts such as blanks – this improves productivity. In addition, the STOPA UNIVERSAL system, which provides rapid access to the sheets and a high degree of space utilization, can be connected to TRUMPF systems with no interface problems. The processing machines are positioned by 90 degrees from the usual angle to the storage system, allowing twice the number of machines to be connected.

The manufacturing processes can be controlled more efficiently because the laser cutting facility's automatic handling equipment communicates directly with the automatic storage system.

On course to Industry 4.0

Besides expanding the sheet-metal storage system, STOPA added three additional stations. SEEGER uses



SEEGER Lasertechnik has extended its capacity limits by lengthening its automatic sheet metal storage system.



By establishing an automatic connection to a laser cutting facility, SEEGER Lasertechnik has increased its productivity.

two of them for incoming and outgoing goods. One station, which has a double cart, is connected by means of a LiftMaster automatic handler to a TRUMPF TruLaser 5030 fiber flat-bed laser machine.

The system is loaded via a lower cart, which is able to detect the last sheet. An upper cart in gantry design returns semi-finished parts and leftover sheets to storage.

The gantry car checks the contours of the sheets to ensure correct placement on pallets for the return trip. The LiftMaster at the laser cutting machine communicates directly with the auto-matic storage system for more efficient control of the manufacturing process.

SEEGER is continuing to use the four stations that it had before the expansion. These include one station for incoming and outgoing and three for manual provisioning



Roland Kiefer, Managing Partner of SEEGER Lasertechnik

of a TruLaser 5040 laser cutting facility.

Always available

The company expanded its storage system in order to adapt the control system to current circumstances. In addition to the existing interface to STOPA's warehouse management system, it created an interface to the automatic handling equipment. The warehouse management system also communicates with the company's ERP system.

Even before the expansion, the STOPA UNIVERSAL sheet metal storage system operated by SEEGER significantly contributed to productivity in the manufacture of sheet metal parts. The new solution has led to marked

reductions in fork-lift traffic and thus less damage to sheets. Moreover, SEEGER benefits from a high degree of manufacturing flexibility.

Autor: Jürgen Warmbold

Pressekontakt:
 STOPA Anlagenbau GmbH
 Industriestraße 12
 D-77855 Achern-Gamshurst
 Tel. +49 7841 704-0
 E-Mail: presse@stopa.com