

## Case Study

# Dick & Dick GmbH

### Highlights

- Extremely easy to use
- Replaced several different CAM systems with a single solution
- 90% reduction in programming time
- Automatic CAD-healing allows for files to be ready for nesting in seconds
- Up to 50% less machining time through common cutting
- Automatic collision detection
- Regular software updates with new functionality
- Technology database is editable from the machine controller
- Support of all machine functions, regardless of cutting technology
- Highest part quality through technology tables intelligently applying the correct cutting methods
- High class service and remote support through local distributor

**D**ick & Dick GmbH, based in Dinglestädt, near the centre of Germany, specialises in creating assemblies and, as a sheet metal subcontractor, cutting to a depth of 150 mm using either laser or waterjet.

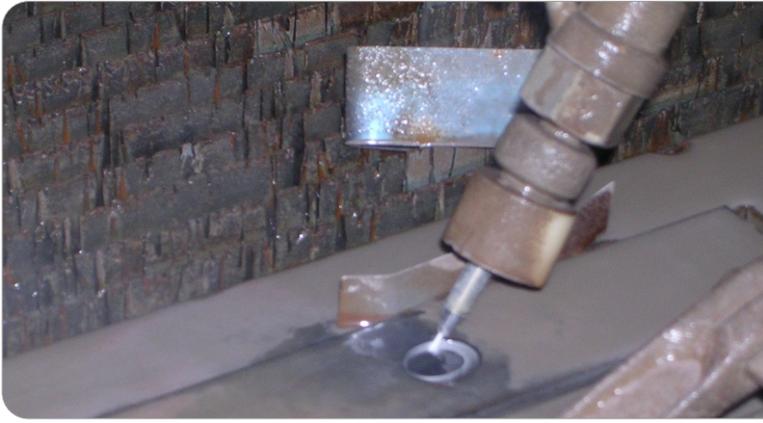
The first laser machine was purchased during the 1990s and more added later – in 1998 a Trenntek waterjet and a Prima 3kW laser and in 2005 a Prima 4kW laser, which was supplied with the CAM software offered by the manufacturer.

At this point programming of the machines was becoming a problem. The programmers had to learn multiple CAM applications, with different and generally low-level capabilities. That they often had to exchange files from one system to another caused further problems. The company decided, therefore, to adopt a single CAM solution that would be easy to use, fast to program and support the most advanced machine functions, regardless of machine type or brand. After evaluating the market, Dick & Dick purchased two licenses of JETCAM Expert Premium.

Managing director Martin Dick said: *“When looking for a new system we made a wish-list of relevant features and based on our 10 years experience in CAD/CAM programming JETCAM was the only one able to fully meet our needs.”*

Within just a few weeks of using JETCAM, Dick & Dick already felt the impact it was having on their daily business. Programmer Kai Stöber remembers: *“Many old problems that took time and effort to resolve simply disappeared with JETCAM. We can program much faster and the DXF interface is brilliant.”*

To use the Prima laser to maximum advantage, the cut database was adjusted especially to meet the needs of Dick & Dick. The database was set up in such a way that functions such as pierce-through control (LPM), engraving, cleaning the nozzle (CLEANTIP), sheet measuring and sheet trimming were all performed automatically. Not only was it possible to use all the machines to their fullest technical capacity, but also in many cases the programming times per part were reduced to seconds. The company was then able to focus on



**Software:** JETCAM Expert Premium

**Machines:** Prima Platino 1530 - 3KW Laser  
Prima Platino 1530 - 4KW Laser  
TrennTek - WaterJet

exploring the opportunities for even more optimisation. One existing problem was that the machine operator often had to modify the NC-Code to edit the laser parameters (as only later machines are able to store the laser technology inside the control). To avoid the need for this, JETCAM's local distributor wrote a program to allow editing of the JETCAM SEKT (Stored Engineering Knowledge Technology) database online from the machine control itself. As the technology parameters are added to the NC code during program generation process, even older nests are updated automatically with the new laser technology information.

Apart from the general high nesting efficiency, additional material savings are made through the automatic common cutting strategies. Besides the higher sheet utilisation, especially important when using expensive materials, the machining times were reduced by up to 50%. Martin Dick: *"Our previous programming systems were barely able to perform common cuts across components. With JETCAM we simply nest the parts together and the rest is done by the built-in routines which, despite the higher sheet utilisation and lower machining times, still create parts of the highest quality"*.

Pre-cutting, automatic lead-ins, and other functions work together to maintain the finish quality. To ensure a crash-free machining, the automatic routines include collision avoidance technology.

Kai Stöber: *"No matter how we nest – the system moves the cutting head over the sheet in the most efficient way possible, going around already cut components and holes or lifting the head where appropriate for optimum speed and safety"*.

Machine cycle time is especially important at Dick & Dick as the machines are running in three shifts, unattended, and without visual checking.

Martin concluded; *"Service from both JETCAM and the dealer has been first class – the updates always contain useful enhancements and there is always help available, when we need it. I especially like the on-line assistance provided. Whenever we are stuck with any questions they are able to connect to our computer with one mouse click and we can watch our complicated parts being programmed remotely."*

