



Welcome to Afar



Thank you for your choice to come and visit us at our firm, we feel honoured to host you and we're pleased to have an exchange of information and opinions between you and us.

INTRODUCTION

Unfortunately, in the past, Af.ar has been "used" to draw production technology or systems to make the production easier and faster from competing firms and from SUPPOSED customers who wanted to visit us in order to start a "little" production of tools for their needs. These experiences OBLIGED us to choose not to allow to anybody to visit our production department, with no exception, but only after a period of at least 1 year of good collaboration between the two parts.

We think that for customer is more important a result obtained from the employment of our products than seeing how they are produced as it depends only from our "cleverness" in business coordination and our ability in improving working times and manufacturing capability, but this concerns only us.

If you need guarantees, you can have the best ones cooperating with us who have been constantly growing for 25 years and we are still searching to improve manufacturing capabilities of 20% more than what is produced year by year.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Af.ar was born on May 1982 and was found by Bassetti Maurizio, the present general manager and the only administrator, who, with the help of his father Luigi creates a small artisan reality for the resharpening of tools used in Goldsmithery Industry. Bassetti Luigi, great Micro-mechanic technician working in horology trade area at a company created by him as technical co-founder, which manufactures high quality watches like Omega, (for instance), has got a big experience in mechanical area and will transmit to his son Maurizio (basically electrotechnician, expert in computers and program) many information which will be learnt and applied by him during 15 years of practice of work directly on machinery, first manual, then half-automatic and, finally, for culture and his own on PLC, CN, CNC machines of which he becomes user, very good judge of applied correlation among machine / software / piece to produce.

Almost for "fun" Maurizio creates a catalogue poor in graphics, but clear in its contents which allows Af.ar (once Af.ar, Affilatura artigiana di Bassetti Maurizio – Artisan resharpening of Bassetti Maurizio), through two agents of the same area, to be known in all the Italian country.

"Who thinks that to have a future copying from the others and thinks that pressing a button everything becomes possible, has to learn that a firm and its professionalism don't improvise, but they grow together with the honesty and a daily experience of who is part of it..."

Bassetti Maurizio

1982 - Bassetti Maurizio, with the determinant help of his father Luigi, founds Af.ar , a firm resharpening circular saws and cutters in solid carbide for HOROLOGY – GOLDSMITHERY – EYE WEAR PRODUCTS- COMMUTATORS- MECHANICS TEXTILE.

1983 - The machine shop is potentiated buying one of the first Universal resharpening CNC machine in Italy. The first grinding machine has been bought and then modified for the production of raw blanks for circular saws and mills.

PRODUCTION OF CIRCULAR SAWS IN SOLID CARBIDE FOR ALL MANUFACTURING AREAS BEGINS

1984 - The second CNC sharpening machine has been bought. Two specific grinding machines are set up. The first catalogue is made and the sale on national territory starts.

1985 - Machine shop grows up. The first cutters diam. 250 mm are manufactured. Production range with PRINTED BOARDS saws is completed. The exclusive sale of some PRODUCTS is committed to a company which sells our products with its trade mark (the association goes on for nearly 15 years).

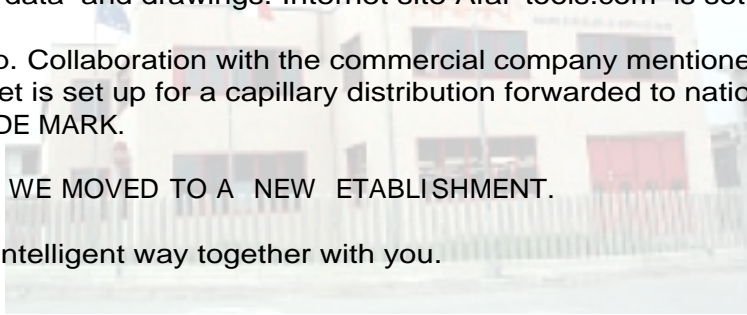
1986 -The machine shop grows up. A control and historical identification of sintered blanks is introduced. The autocertification is introduced : from now on the history of every single piece (raw material,manufacturing process etc) can be rebuilt , even after years , without mistakes.

1987 / 1998 - The machine shop grows up. Sofisticated CNC machines are introduced – hoc grinding machines to manufacture blanks for circular saws and mills well developed systems of CAD-CAM for production are adopted. A POWERFUL HOC DATA BASE is introduced for the recording system of production data and drawings. Internet site Afar-tools.com is set up.

1999 - The machine shop grows up. Collaboration with the commercial company mentioned before, stops. A new commercial net is set up for a capillary distribution forwarded to national and foreign market with AFAR TRADE MARK.

2000 - Production of PCD Cutters . WE MOVED TO A NEW ESTABLISHMENT.

FUTURE - Let's plane one in an intelligent way together with you.



At this moment we have a partnership with an operating unit in Switzerland, we're thinking of forming a group of companies specialized in manufacturing all kinds and shapes of circular saws in order to get in the trade market in a dynamic and complete way .

Today Af.ar is a dynamic company recognized in all our country and in all the world , in particular way in the Electrical Commutator and Mechanic-textile trading area where it has become as one of the leader supplier firms of every kind , shape and metal grade of circular saw. In fact some "big names" of german tools companies trust in our experience buying and distributing our products (sometimes even in the italian trading market).



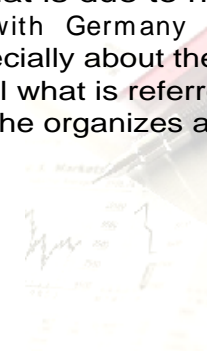
TECHNICAL – PRODUCING DEPARTEMENT

We have , in this department, more than 40 machines between Sharpening and grinding machines, of which 65% CNC and the left are Semiautomatic ; the operators are 8 and with an average of 35 years of age. The person in charge in production dept. is Mr. D'Incà and he has been working for 15 years in Af.ar; he's very competent and now he could substitute Mr. Bassetti about any kind of problems. Mr Colombo, instead, is devoting himself to the production and to the coordination of Grinding machines.

Since the moment of the customer's order , everything is managed "just in time" through the employment of a programme conceived by Mr Bassetti and realized by Mrs. Eng. Galli, our informatic collaborator.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMERCIAL DEPARTEMENT

It is made by 4 persons , one of them is still Mr. Bassetti, while the Administrator Sergio Colombo attends to the administrative Management of the firm,of the banks and of the accounting checking in , helped by Cristina who attends to all what is due to her in administration . Besides she attends also to foreign relationships with Germany and customers in general. Lorella attends to purchases in general, but especially about the raw material used in production; then she attends to the management of all what is referred to suppliers (conformity reports, returned material etc. etc.). Besides , she organizes all the exhibitions to which Af.ar takes part.

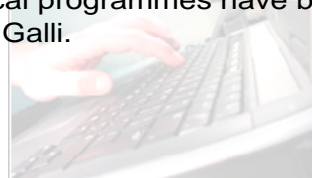


MANAGING TECHICAL DEPARTEMENT

It is composed by 3 persons: Mr. Bassetti, Mrs. Galli, (manager for software and web) and Mr. Renzo Ciardiello (person in charge for net systems.. etc etc).

A system of 3 servers, one for the net, one for the fax and one server for the mail, all protected by Firewall, are the heart of communication, management and safeguard of all data in the firm. All the managing programmes used in Af.ar have been changed , conceived and realized just for the reality in evolution of the firm.

Managing administrative programmes have been adpted to management of Af.ar in some cases and in other cases completely realized by Mrs. Galli according to the suggestions of Mr. Colombo. Managing production programmes have been conceived by Mr. Bassetti and completely realized by Mrs. Galli. Managing Technical programmes have been conceived and realized by Mr. Bassetti and , some of them, by Mrs. Galli.



WAREHOUSE



Two people are working at the warehouse, one of them attends to despatches and the other one to receipt of the goods from suppliers and their test.

Production is controlled "just in time" by a programme (realized inside the firm) called PFO/SAL; this programme checks, in every single phase or operation, the condition of customer's order since the moment of its insertion till the moment of despatch of the goods and, in case of special goods, it checks the whole "iter" of the management about the order of the raw material to which it is related in a completely automated way.

The control of the goods in entry coming from suppliers is made according to strict operating instructions which fix the unconditional acceptance, the acceptance with reservation and the possible returned goods not suitable.

If the goods are suitable, they are labelled and put in stock in the warehouse.

In case the goods had a secondary defect and we decide to accept them with reservation,

An e-mail is sent to managers in Af.ar who provide to send a report to supplier informing him about the decision of Quality Assurance: The goods are stocked and labelled in a different way from the suitable goods.

In case of defected goods, and so to be returned to supplier, an e-mail to persons in charge is sent and they will provide to send a report to supplier informing him about the decision of Quality Assurance; labelled goods are returned to supplier as agreed before.

ORDERS AND PRODUCTION LAUNCHINGS

Only before regular offer, orders (accepted only if written) are taken and registered. Eliana provides to transform customer order in an Inner Order Confirmation which, just once determined in every single detail, is sent to customer and, then, working documents are issued and delivered to programming. Production launching of order is then realized through PFO programme by Valentina under supervision of Mr. Colombo.

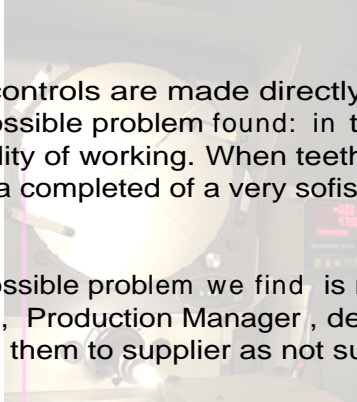
PROCESSING

The operations made on pieces to produce, are registered just in time by operators recording all on a pC completed of touch screen in which there is SAL programme (stato avanzamento lavorazioni, which means Working progress state) and, normally, they follow this priority:

- 1) Grinding of diameter of hole of circular saw on inner grinding machines
- 2) Grinding of outer diameters on grinding outer machines.
- 3) Grinding of planes, possible making of discharges and lapping on special grinding rotating table machines
- 4) Teeths of saws.
- 5) Possible profiling and inner revision of teeth
- 6) Print on tools, with batch production.
- 7) Cleaning, packing and despatch.

The target of programme is to check, first, working progress state, then its task is to analyse Production times and to signal, through special procedures of statistical calculation, discordances between different times made in past by the same operator or by others, and to provide, according to these statistics, the long term engagements of every machine according to current operations on the same machine.

All the controls are made directly by operators in a self-governing way, reporting on SAL every possible problem found: in this way the responsible of production can check the state and quality of working. When teeth working is over, geometry of tooth is detected directly by a camera completed of a very sophisticated management software for measurement.



Every possible problem we find is recorded in SAL and, in case Quality Manager or, in his absence, Production Manager, decide to treat with Supply reservation the pieces produced or return them to supplier as not suitable, provided procedures are activated.

All the story of production is automatically recorded and, in any time, through the batch number which is printed on the saws before packaging, can be found out and verified (even the raw material used for manufacturing the same saws).

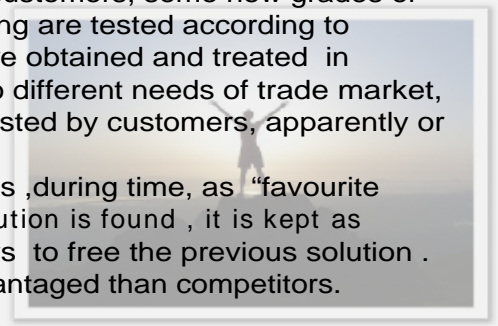
In case customer has a request, a NON Conformity Certificate is automatically issued by SAL on the ground of all the information given by operators during single workings.

RESEARCH

Af.ar has researched for many years an improvement about the quality of its products; this happens even thanks to first supplier of raw material who has been our active collaborator for 20 years.

Thanks to the cooperation of some available and consentient customers, some new grades of material, some tools geometries and some new kinds of coating are tested according to different cases of detailed working note and all data found are obtained and treated in confidential way inside a data base which allows, according to different needs of trade market, to reach, time by time, with a better precision, targets requested by customers, apparently or really difficult.

The more customer collaborates, the more he gets advantages, during time, as "favourite track" is absolutely respected and, when a good and right solution is found, it is kept as "exclusive" till we don't reach a new improvement which allows to free the previous solution. Consequence is that customer who collaborates is more advantaged than competitors.



ATTENTION TO REAL NEEDS OF CUSTOMER

We often find on drawings related to offer requests some USELESS peculiarities which help to increase the price without any reason as they are not necessary to have a better performance of tool. In a lot of cases these peculiarities come from a re-employment of old drawings of tools before produces in HSS where some shape characteristics were made before hardening and so by simple and fast mechanical workings as shavings removal and not by grinding and electrical erosion like hard metal (tungsten carbide) should be treated. In these cases Af.ar identifies real uses of tools and submits them to customer who realizes the difference of cost with the same during life and, in most cases, chooses the alternative subjected to him.

If you have any doubt, don't hesitate to ask: we can give you a complete and verbal answer. We thank you if you want to choose us as your partner.

Af.ar srl
General manager
Bassetti Maurizio

