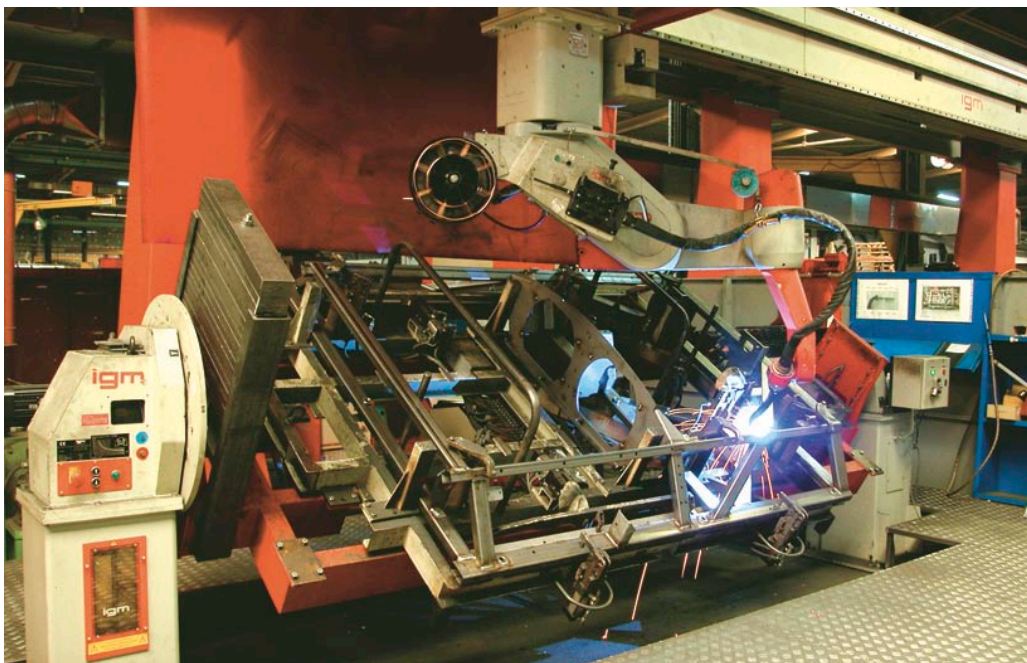


Using organisation to remain competitive

To secure an advantage in the face of highly inexpensive Czech competition, Ruget robotized the production of tube frames and totally reorganized its production workshop.



OUR CLIENT

Business name:
Ruget

Activity:
Standard mechanical
welding products

Turnover:
23.9 million euros

Context:
Ruget, located in
Chaponost (69), is
confronted with
competition from
Eastern European
countries, which are
favoured due to their
low labour costs

One of Ruget's customers, the Carrier company has decided for cost reasons, to have tube structures manufactured by a Czech workshop.

Robotizing welding

In order to remain competitive, Ruget needed to cut tubes internally and robotize the welding of frames. Production facilities needed to be quickly adapted and the workshop needed to be reorganized, which included cataphoresis and powder-based paint treatments, but the company felt it needed assistance for the

logistical and organizational aspects. "Requesting help from Cetim was the obvious solution," states Franck Langlois, production director. Three focus areas were defined: ergonomics at the various handling points, the set-up of a logistics flow in parallel

to the existing flow, and the optimization of the powder line. The same Cetim expert participated in the various multidisciplinary groups set up for the study, with different speakers attending according to the topics that were addressed. The flows were firstly described with their constraints. The study then dealt with handling: racks or supports were created to facilitate the preparation of work and swing trays were designed to optimize the volume of available baths. The logistics of all supports and containers were examined.

Becoming a model facility

Although further gains are still possible, production, launched in February 2002, was turning out 70 to 80 products per week by summer of the same year, which was well beyond the 50 that were expected.

"Following this success," recalls Franck Langlois, "we ordered another robot for other types of Carrier frames. We have become a model facility and we work on optimizing cycle times and on welding quality."



Cetim's asset

Cetim provides both technical expertise and an outside perspective to help companies generate productivity gains and achieve a business advantage, using new facilities as well as existing lines.