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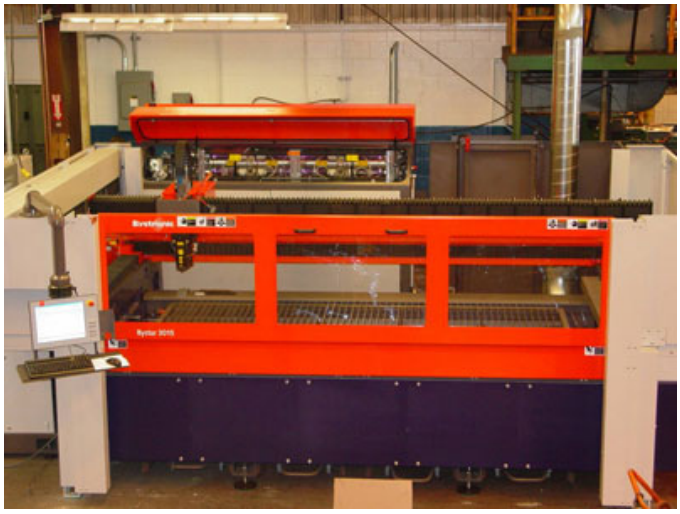
PRESS RELEASE

New Bystronic Bystar 3015



The Deer Park facility recently completed the purchase and installation of a brand new Bystronic Bystar 3015 laser cutting system. The Bystronic laser has a 4.4 kW resonator, capable of cutting 1" thick carbon steel. This new acquisition replaced the previous laser that served the facility well for over 12 years.

The new laser is capable of cutting stainless steel nearly 60% faster than the old system and can cut some alloys (Inconel, Monel, Hastalloy, etc) up to 5 times faster. This added efficiency should increase the speed at which inner rings and guide rings are produced, thus decreasing the manufacturing leadtime of the overall spiral wound gasket.

As with the old laser system, all parts to be cut on the laser are drawing using a CAD (computer aided drawing) system, AutoCAD. This electronic drawing is then converted to the machine language via a post processor. The laser is then able to cut the part with a precision of greater than ±0.015 inch. Additionally the Manufacturing Engineering department is able to convert most CAD drawing formats to work with the laser. If a customer is able to supply an electronic drawing file the part can be cut directly from that file.

In addition to metal, this new laser will continue to be able to cut Thermiculite 815 and some non-asbestos sheet material. This capability allows for very complex shaped gaskets to be made with precision and speed.

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MARKETING DEPARTMENT

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