

# CUTTING EDGE

## EQUIPMENT • PEROLO CONTINUES TO INVEST IN NEW MACHINERY TO OPTIMISE PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE AT ITS MANUFACTURING FACILITIES IN EUROPE AND CHINA

IN THIS WORLD that we live in, even the smallest disruption can have global consequences – as we all unfortunately have seen during the Covid pandemic. Covid caused the markets to plummet before skyrocketing to unseen levels again. It also caused global supply chains to be massively disrupted, creating congestions in ports and shortages of components and materials in virtually all industries, including the tank container industry.

As a result of this disruption and volatility, companies have had to become more reactive and agile than ever. To tackle this demand for flexibility and versatility, tank equipment specialist BIP Perolo has continued to invest in new equipment that will make its production process more efficient.

In 2021, a brand new facility was built outside Bordeaux, France for the installation of a state-of-the-art laser cutting machine. This new 10 kW machine – of European design – is now fully operational and is ten times faster than the previous laser machine. It can handle extra-large dimensions and can cut metal sheets measuring up to 4 m x 2 m, and up to 30 mm thick. This gives Perolo a cutting-edge advantage to laser cut some components as flanges that previously were too thick to be cut with a laser. The finish of the new machine is also very neat, reducing the need for further finishing operations such as deburring.

In addition, at Perolo's headquarters in Blaye, a new vertical lathe is being installed.



PEROLO'S NEW LASER-CUTTING MACHINE IN FRANCE IS TEN TIMES FASTER THAN THE PREVIOUS EQUIPMENT

This latest version will allow for more machining functionalities and even better performance.

### PART OF THE SOLUTION

At the same time, Perolo's subsidiary in Rudong, China has benefitted from further investments over the past year. A new latest technology welding robot was installed, making the production of manlids more efficient and with a consistent quality. Furthermore, the Rudong facility has been equipped with a brand-new CNC machine to tackle the ever rising demand for equipment for newbuild tank containers.

As we move into 2022, what lies ahead for BIP Perolo? To start with, the company has been picked by the regional authorities in Nouvelle

Aquitaine for its highly selective programme *Usine du future* – or 'Factory of the Future'. This programme provides support by the local government to promote the modernisation of the industrial production sector and improve competitiveness through innovation and technological development. Experts in their field will accompany Perolo to see where and how the production model can be improved and what strategy should be implemented for a smart factory. This way BIP Perolo will not only modernise its production set-up, but will also be able to guarantee a steady production whatever the next challenge it faces.

These latest developments represent a continuation of the company's direction since it was first established in 1919; its Blaye facility, now fully modernised, covers some 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> of factory space. Perolo is now a division of the BIP Group, which has subsidiaries in Belgium the UK, Poland, Singapore and China, as well as a network of representatives around the world. Aside from its ranges of valves and fittings for tank containers, road tankers, rail tank cars and intermediate bulk containers (IBCs), it also provides heavy duty valves for static applications in the refining and petrochemical sector, electronic grounding devices and fuel equipment for low-pressure applications. [www.perolo.com](http://www.perolo.com)

