

Leveling & Deburring

Forming the future

Central Cal Metals expands leveling and deburring capabilities.

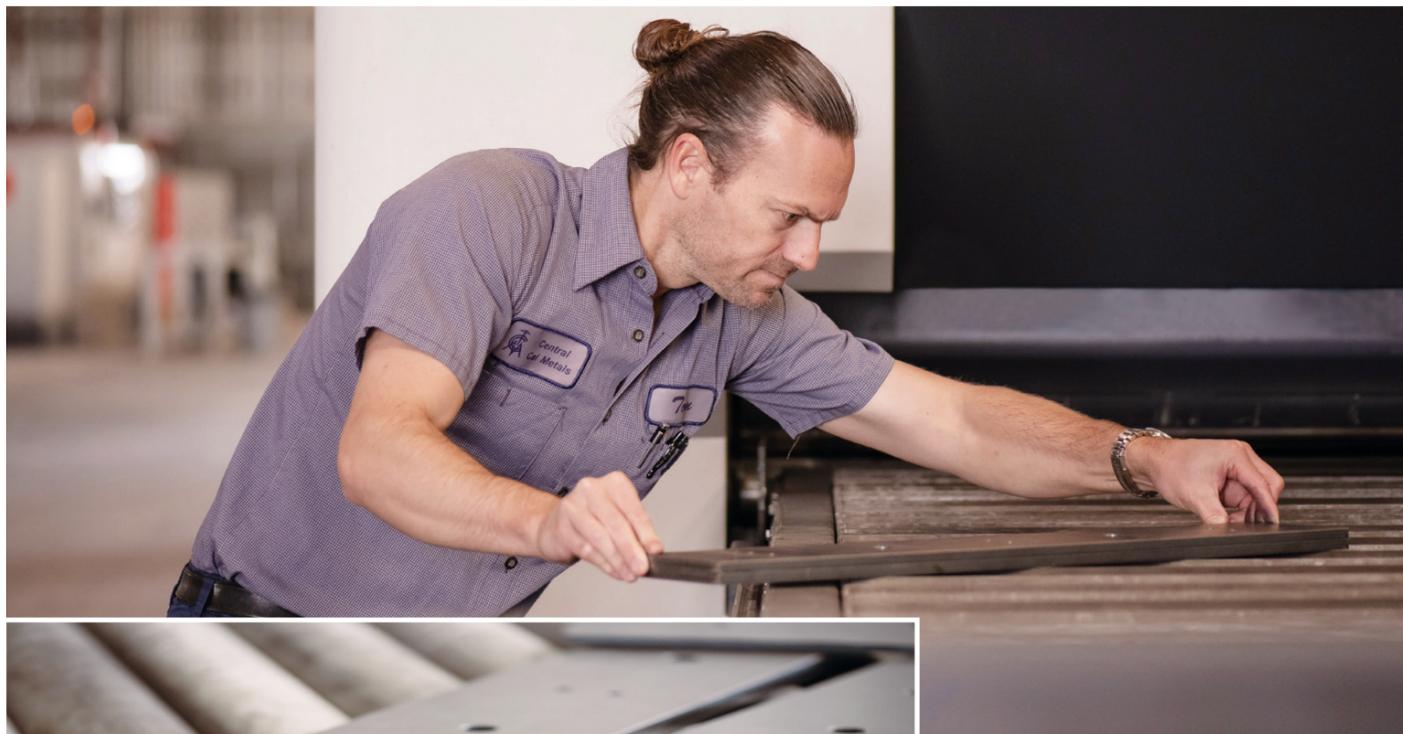
Fresno (CA) - You could say that transformation runs through their veins: Central Cal Metals is a third-generation family business that dates back to 1950. What started out as a strong partner to Californian architects and designers has become a business serving a much broader customer base. Today, Central Cal Metals serves companies from the

From manual to automated processes
Central Cal Metals has all it takes to provide the best results for its customers. Thanks to many years of experience, highly motivated employees, seven water jets, three fiber lasers, and eight press brakes, quality products are guaranteed. One thing had been

missing for years, however: the right technology to give the parts a perfect finish. "We needed additional equipment that would make products even more appealing," says Tom Alandt, Operations manager at Central Cal Metals.

A portfolio for all needs

2017 lead to an interesting twist in their search for matching equipment. When



Optimally leveled parts enable smooth processing at Central Cal Metals, effectively shortening downstream processes.

food, automotive, and aerospace industries, amongst others. The secret to its success? Its staff of 25, which runs one of the biggest regional job shops for laser-cutting and forming.

In the past, colleagues manually leveled parts that warped or bended after cutting. This meant doing work with staff and equipment that was neither specifically trained nor designed for this purpose.

The FlatMaster[®] 88 ensures flat metal sheets with reduced internal stresses in just a few seconds.

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Strength in the face of adversity

We are almost at the end of this year; who would have thought that it would take place with so many challenges. The covid crisis is still here, Russia invaded Ukraine, and inflation continued to rise. Orders remain strong, but the supply chain can't seem to improve fast enough and skilled labor remains difficult to hire and retain.

These past several years have been uniquely challenging for many companies. Supporting our customers during this environment has been a top priority of ours and companies like Kirchoff have publicly acknowledged our efforts by naming ARKU Supplier of the Year (Page 3). This trust in ARKU is also demonstrated by our repeat customers. Our cover story explores Central Cal Metals decision to invest in a second leveler and a deburring machine from ARKU. On page 4, we share some information on how we've been able to retain and even grow our team in this environment.

Nicholas Miller
President of ARKU Inc.

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now process a wide range of materials with thicknesses between 0.04 to 1.10 inches.

For Central Cal Metals, the combination of three ARKU machines is a significant upgrade to their job shop's offerings. "We're able to ensure clean and flat parts that allow customers to assemble their equipment faster. The deburring machine creates added value, since rounded edges ensure safe handling assemblies".

Lasting effects

Being one of the few job shops in California to offer this type of service, word spread quickly. Today the leveling and deburring machines operate daily, helping Central Cal Metals to expand its customer base even further. For Tom and his team, automated leveling will undoubtedly set standards in sheet



Setting things straight: Tom Alandt, Operations manager at Central Cal Metals (left), Nicholas Miller, CEO at ARKU Inc. (second from left), Chris Gonzales, Maintenance Supervisor at Central Cal Metals (second from right) and Pedro Duke, Production Manager at Central Cal Metals (right) discuss the perfect finish.

metal forming. Says Tom: "We wanted a company that thinks innovatively, recognizes obstacles, and offers solutions. With ARKU, we got all of this – and now we feel ready for any challenge." www.cencalmetals.com

Deburring

The nuts and bolts of manufacturing

Deburring technology secures parts aesthetics and process efficiency.

Covington (GA) – One could think that heavy-duty parts are all about performance. For Cutting Edge Laser, however, aesthetics play an equally important role. For 21 years, the Covington-based company has been fabricating large steel components for construction vehicles like forklifts and excavators. The better components look, the more appealing the final machines will be – and the more successful the sales.

"Customers rely on solid work, which we provide. We are the nuts and bolts of manufacturing, if you will," Doug Nielsen, President of Cutting Edge



At Cutting Edge Laser, aesthetic parts play a major role – and require many helping hands. John Cooper, Vice President of Production (far left), Doug Nielsen, President of Cutting Edge Laser (center), and Chasity Mealer, Operations Manager at Cutting Edge Laser are happy to have a large team that supports them.

Laser explains. Although this sounds simple and convincing, it is not easily done: if the fabricating equipment does not live up to current technological standards, uneven surfaces and unpleasant burrs might compromise a part's appeal. This had, indeed, already happened to Cutting Edge Laser with its wet belt sander.

This hassle called for a dependable and time-efficient solution that would enable Cutting Edge Laser to live up to its own standard – perceptual quality. A search on ARKU's webpage brought about a matching solution – the EdgeBreaker® 3000 with easy-to-handle consumables and a remarkable finish. The dry deburring machine can deburr and edge round parts from both sides in just one pass. Doug and his team didn't think twice and purchased the machine in mid-2021.

With ARKU, Cutting Edge Laser found a partner who was easy to deal with. "The purchase, installation, and support were smooth and easy", John says. Since April 2022, the machine has been going about its business – deburring and edge-rounding laser cut steel, stainless steel, and aluminum parts, with thicknesses between 16 gauge and 1/4".

www.cuttingedgelaser.com

Deburred and perfectly edge rounded stainless steel and aluminum parts are a true benefit for Cutting Edge Laser.

ARKU-Ticker

Increasing service and spare parts capacities

When it comes to top notch equipment, consistent uptime is key. That is why ARKU Inc. has doubled its inventory of critical spare parts in the US. Especially since current lead times for certain supplies have been increasing. We even offer dedicated 24/7 hotline support for urgent matters after hours. Contact us today under spareparts@arku.com, our consistently growing service team is looking forward to help you.



Coil lines

KIRCHHOFF Automotive honors ARKU

ARKU was awarded „Supplier of the Year“ after many years of successful partnership.

At this year's Supplier of the Year Awards by KIRCHHOFF Automotive, ARKU truly impressed in the category „Capital & Tooling“. Due to the current political situation, the award ceremony took place online for the first time ever. From ARKU's side, Albert Reiss (President & CEO), Hans Peter Pflüger (former senior executive), Franck Hirschmann (Key Account Manager) and Harald Kohl (Project Manager) accepted the award. With this award, KIRCHHOFF Automotive especially appreciates the reliability and quality provided by ARKU. This has also led to an excellent partnership for more than 20 years: The coil lines from Baden-Baden have proven their immense value in the production halls of KIRCHHOFF Automotive since 2002.

„We are united by the typical corporate culture of German medium-sized companies," says Klaus Lawory, Vice President Procurement at KIRCHHOFF Automotive. „This includes clear concepts and communication, well-structured processes, suitable employees and global activities“.



From left: Franck Hirschmann (Key Account Manager), Albert Reiss (President & CEO), Hans-Peter Pflüger (former senior executive) and Harald Kohl (Project Manager) have been awarded the „Supplier of the Year 2022“ award by KIRCHHOFF Automotive.

www.kirchhoff-automotive.com

Deburring

Deburring machines as versatile as sheet metal

Innovative deburring technology for any sheet metal application.

When deburring sheet metal, the tasks can be very diverse: Depending on the material thickness and burr size, differently designed machines are required. ARKU has a comprehensive range of products for this purpose.

The EdgeBreaker® 6000 is new and very popular among existing customers. This versatile deburring machine is specifically designed for the complete processing of materials after punching and laser cutting. This in-

cludes deburring, edge rounding and surface finishing. The distinctive rotary brush system ensures a uniform edge rounding result and a radius of up to 2 mm. With the finishing module, the surface can be designed according to customer requirements. Brand new for the EdgeBreaker® 6000 is the ARKU Wizard: This software automatically calculates the optimum machine settings. Users only need to enter four parameters and no longer require a vast amount of experience.

Process reliable even with stronger laser burrs

The workhorse of the EdgeBreaker® family is the EdgeBreaker® 3000. Even with stronger laser burrs and spatter on the surface, the machine deburrs and edge rounds on both sides and in one pass with high process reliability.

For plasma parts, first remove the slag

ARKU also has the right machines for

thick flame-cut parts. For thicker parts with heavy slag, the EdgeBreaker® 5000 is the expert. The slag hammer knocks off slag and splatters with the help of pins. If double-sided processing is needed, look to the EdgeBreaker® 4000 for applications with heavy burrs and moderate slag. With its heavy-duty grinding drum, it removes the burr with unique process reliability.

Compact deburring machines for small parts

The smallest footprint machine is the EdgeBreaker® 1000. It is used for the cost-effective processing of smaller parts. Find our entire portfolio here:



As versatile as sheet metal - ARKU has the right deburring machine for every task.



ARKU web shop: Deburring tools 24/7

When it comes to your deburring machine, you rely on consistent performance and process reliability. The same should be the case for your deburring tools. You can easily order all the high-quality tools for your deburring machines through the ARKU web shop. Visit the ARKU web shop online: <https://www.shop.arku.com/us>

Toll processing saves you material and machines

Have your out of flat sheets leveled at ARKU to keep your production up and running. At our Leveling Center in Cincinnati, OH, we process parts and blanks made of steel, armor, stainless steel, aluminum, titanium and copper up to 1.57" (40 mm) thick and 78" (2,000 mm) wide with the tightest tolerances. Interested? Feel free to contact Mary Simpson mary.simpson@arku.com - 513-316-0296.

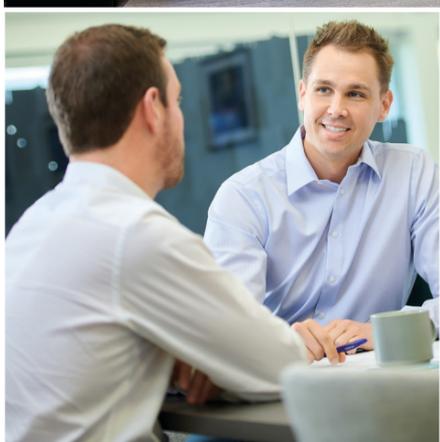
Corporate

The bedrock of growth

ARKU Inc. successfully meets the challenge of finding and retaining talent.

Cincinnati, OH – For a budding business, ARKU Inc. has come a long way in recent years: the staff has quadrupled over the past decade, and the company is set for further growth. But just like the leveling and deburring expert has changed over time, so did the industry and the job market. Faced with inflation, a skilled labor shortage and

employees with state-of-the-art workspaces. “We also fundamentally changed our approach to talent acquisition,” Nicholas says. Besides job postings on popular platforms, ARKU heavily relies on its network of personal contacts and academia. “Through cooperations with former interns and experts from universities across the country, we have



Modern offices in Cincinnati, hybrid work options and industry-leading technology make sure talents come and stay with ARKU.

expanded our reach – with very good results.”

The company has already hired three new employees through these new channels. What’s more, talent retention has also benefitted from a new take on everyday business life: besides the new office building, hybrid work and a great deal of company events have helped ARKU to add to staff satisfaction and work-life balance. “Not to mention the constant exchange with our German headquarter in Baden-Baden,” Nicholas emphasizes. “We even have a German colleague working here who supports the technological knowledge transfer. With such a sound talent base, we are confident we will live up to our future endeavors.”

consistently high customer demands, ARKU must rise to a constant challenge: hiring the best employees in the industry.

“There are more job openings than skilled labor in the US,” Nicholas Miller, CEO at ARKU, points out. “This makes for tough competition. But we are up to the challenge, as we intend to grow over the next years. This of course calls for new ways of seeking and keeping people.”

No sooner said than done: ARKU not only invested in a new office building on Kemper Road, which provides em-

Teaming up for Kentucky

“Never change a winning team”, the saying goes. In the face of humanitarian crises, nothing could be more true – and more vital. In Ohio, supporting communities in need is deeply rooted in the culture of local businesses. ARKU and the local humanitarian aid organization Matthew 25 Ministries are no exception. In the wake of the severe flash flooding in Kentucky, both organizations teamed up once again. Matthew 25 Ministries was able to deliver personal care items, cleaning products, and generators to survivors with their Disaster Response truck. ARKU team members sorted and packaged additional medical supplies and non-perishable food. “Voluntee-

ring is important for both Matthew 25 Ministries and our employees,” says Nicholas Miller, CEO at ARKU Inc. “Our colleagues are very happy to help people in need – and to strengthen the team spirit.”



The ARKU employees are all smiles knowing that all the medical supplies they have sorted will make a huge impact for those that need it most.

Personality Smooth operator

27-year-old Mackenzie Jones likes a challenge. The Cincinnati-native



entered the steel industry rather by accident. But curious by nature, he opted to stay with ARKU - a decision which later on set him up for success.

Since then, Mackenzie has proven to be an efficient second shift production lead. He immersed himself in the manufacturing processes, keeping an eye on machine setups, as well as material specifications and operator safety. “I always strive to stay ahead of the customer’s needs and take the necessary steps to ensure a smooth quality job in a timely manner,” he says. This attitude also inspires those around him: a natural team player, he leads by example and takes great pride in supporting his colleagues to succeed in their work. In his spare time, the father of three stays active with basketball and exercising at the gym, but also enjoys a casual dinner at home. Welcome to the ARKU family, Mackenzie!

Imprint

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