CAPABILITIES IN
LASER PROCESSING
and MICROMACHINING

Cutting • Ablation • Marking
Welding • Drilling • Scribing

ADVANCED HIGH TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS FOR:
Medical Device Fabrication
Data Storage Components and Systems
Semiconductor Wafer and Devices
Military and Aerospace Components
Automotive Parts Fabrication
High Precision Discrete Parts Manufacturing
Photovoltaic and other Alternative Energy Sources

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Since 1970, Aerotech has been dedicated to developing solutions for the laser processing industry. We continually enhance our existing product line and invest in new developments to address the most stringent customer requirements. This results in products that offer the highest accuracy, highest throughput, and highest reliability, ultimately leading to the lowest cost of ownership for our customers.

Aerotech’s broad range of motion control products means we can provide the optimal solution for your application. Our expertise includes systems for shop floor, R&D, vacuum, and cleanroom environments. Our ability to provide custom-engineered products and systems to end users, integrators, and high-volume OEMs is unmatched, and our products deliver quality, performance, flexibility, and the highest return on investment.

Aerotech’s focused development has led to our state-of-the-art Automation 3200 motion controller capable of synchronizing 32 axes of motion, with advanced features such as Position Synchronized Output (PSO) for precise laser control, coordinated motion between servomotors and galvos (Nmark™ SSaM), seamless integration of PLCs, and sophisticated plotting and diagnostic utilities that enable rapid debugging of process and motion parameters.

Coupling these advanced control features with mechanics that are designed for long life and low maintenance in harsh environments provides laser machine manufacturers the means to build the best overall systems in the industry.

Laser Processes Served:

- Cutting
- Welding
- Marking and Engraving
- Drilling
- Ablation
- Micromachining
- Cladding
- Peening
SOLUTIONS FOR
LASER CUTTING APPLICATIONS

Laser cutting involves directing the focused light of a laser, which then either melts, burns, or vaporizes away material. There are numerous advantages of laser cutting over mechanical cutting, including higher cut quality, no blade wear (since it is a noncontact process), and a smaller heat affected zone that minimizes part distortion. CO₂ and Nd:YAG lasers are the most popular laser selections, depending on the materials being processed. Typical applications include flat sheet processing, ceramic and diamond cutting, and tube processing.

FLAT SHEET PROCESSING

Flat sheet processing is typically accomplished with one of two configurations: either with a moving laser over stationary material, or moving material under a stationary laser. Both have advantages, and Aerotech’s products are specialized to meet the most aggressive demands of both options.

XY Linear Motor Axes
- Hardened protective covers and tensioned side-seals protect internal components
- Integrated multi-axis cable management system for simplified addition of customer cables and hoses
- Noncontact direct-drive motors for highest accuracy contouring of precision components

Sealed Linear Motor Gantry
- Sealed design protects linear motors and encoders, allowing use in harsh environments
- Low CG of the bridge coupled with dual linear motors/encoders and stiff mounting interfaces permit micron-level dynamic accuracies on high-speed cutting applications
- Large bend radius cable management system is sized for integration of a laser’s fiber delivery system for simple and seamless integration of the laser
- Mounting surfaces on the bridge structure enable attachment of optics for free-space laser delivery systems or galvo scanners

Featuring/Recommendations:
- A3200 controller
- High performance linear motor stages (ALS5000/ALS25000 stages)
- Sealed linear-motor gantries (ASGS15000)

ALS25000XY linear motor stage system with hardcover.

ASGS15000 sealed linear motor gantry is perfect for harsh environments.
CERAMIC CUTTING

Lasers are ideal for cutting and drilling delicate ceramic materials without damaging the work piece. However, additional care needs to be taken to protect against the fine debris generated. Aerotech’s stages are well suited to meet the demanding requirements of ceramic processing while protecting against contamination for 24/7 worry-free operation.

XY Linear Motor Axes

- Wide-body linear motor lower axis provides increased roll stiffness for multi-head ceramic processing, increasing effective work area
- Low angular errors allow accurate placement of part features over large areas while high dynamic stiffness holds tight tolerances on small part features
- Optional air purge, in addition to stage hard cover and side seals, keeps a positive air pressure inside the stage, protecting it against debris and fine particulates for increased system life and consistent quality

DIAMOND CUTTING AND PROCESSING

Diamond cutting is one of the main processes involved in altering a diamond from rough stone into a valuable, faceted gem. Since diamonds are one of the hardest surfaces to cut, lasers are uniquely qualified to produce a higher yield of precise and distinctive profiles that are difficult to attain with traditional cutting methods.

XYθ Direct-Drive Axes

- Extremely smooth velocity regulation for higher surface quality and decreased material waste
- Precise multi-axis contouring for processing complex profiles while maintaining high product yields
- Direct-drive stages for maintenance-free operation
SOLUTIONS FOR LASER MICROMACHINING

Laser micromachining can be loosely defined as the manufacturing of parts with geometries in the 100s of microns with geometric tolerances in the 1 to 10 micron range. Working with these small feature sizes does not necessarily imply correspondingly small net part size. Large parts composed of many small features, such as stencils, can be considered for a micromachining process. Likewise, applications such as laser cutting of stents, resistor trimming, and 3D prototyping also fall into this category. Aerotech can provide a wide range of motion platforms with optimized control architectures capable of maintaining micron-level part geometries for parts ranging in size from 1 to 1000 mm.

STENTS, HYPOTUBES, AND CYLINDRICAL MATERIAL PROCESSING

Many laser cutting and welding processes require the handling of cylindrical or bar-stock-type materials. Aerotech’s extensive line of products includes component-level solutions as well as optimized, combination linear/rotary motion systems designed to automate the handling of these materials. Direct-drive technology coupled with a frictionless rotary union for collet actuation enable speeds in excess of 600 rpm for high-throughput applications. ER collets are available for precision cylindrical-gripping applications, and a 3-jaw concentric gripper is available for I.D./O.D. and odd-form profiles.

Featuring/Recommendations:
- A3200 controller
- Integrated mechanical packages (LaserTurn® 1, LaserTurn® 2, LaserTurn® 5)
- Direct-drive, high-torque, rotary axis with integral pneumatic collet adapter or 3-jaw gripper (ACS, ACS-LP)

Configuration Options:
- Front and rear tooling platforms for easy integration of material handling
- Pneumatic activated, seal-less rotary union provides years of maintenance-free operation
- Parallel jaw gripper for automated tube advance
- Bushing alignment platform with Y/Z micrometer adjustment reduces tube TIR at the cut point

LaserTurn® 1
- Tube capacity from 0.1 micron to 5 mm
- Combined low inertia rotary axis and low mass moving stage provides the highest throughput in the LaserTurn series
- Collet system with moving taper design limits axial tube motion for unattended manufacturing of unlimited length parts
- Wet-cutting option available to limit backwall and thermal damage to the material under process

LaserTurn® 1 is a winner of the 2008 Control Engineering Engineer’s Choice Award.
STENTS, HYPOTUBES, AND CYLINDRICAL MATERIAL PROCESSING

LaserTurn® 2
• Tube capacity from 0.5 micron to 10 mm
• Highest torque-to-inertia ratio in the LaserTurn series reduces processing time in complex contours
• Low TIR ER collet system minimizes mechanical positioning induced errors during the laser cutting process
• Wet-cutting option available to limit backwall and thermal damage to the material under process

LaserTurn® 5
• Interchangeable ER25 and ER40 collet system provides the widest material handling range of the LaserTurn series (0.5 mm to 30 mm)
• Optional 3-jaw gripper for inside gripping of large diameter materials or for handling odd-form components
• Largest linear motor in the LaserTurn series for high duty-cycle, high-load applications
• Wet-cutting option available to limit backwall and thermal damage to the material under process

3-Jaw Grippers
• Clear aperture for product feed-through
• Optional jaw travel range to optimize gripping force or material capacity
• Custom jaw profiles can be created to grip odd-form products or set the depth of grip
• Gripping range from 30 mm+

A variety of 3-jaw grippers and ER collets are available to meet your application needs.
STENTS, HYPOTUBES, AND CYLINDRICAL MATERIAL PROCESSING

VascuLathe® represents a revolutionary approach to satisfying the demanding requirements of stent manufacturing applications. The fully integrated motion system couples automated material handling functionality with high performance direct-drive linear and rotary motion capability. The integral linear-rotary design increases throughput by 2 to 5 times when compared to traditional screw-based or other manufacturing approaches, while still maintaining submicron tolerances on tight part geometries.

The increased throughput gives much needed flexibility in the extremely competitive stent-manufacturing environment. The higher throughput of the VascuLathe implies that fewer machines are required to produce an equivalent number of stents, resulting in lower total labor costs and reduced floor space requirements. Alternatively, the VascuLathe can be used to meet increased and varied product demand within the existing manufacturing space, saving the costs associated with facility expansion.

1. Stainless roll covers protect bearings and feedback from contamination
2. Optional wet cutting with coolant return
3. Integral frictionless rotary union optimized for stent manufacture provides a lifetime of maintenance-free operation
4. Simplified, reliable cable management system ensures trouble-free operation
5. Precision ER16, ER25, or ER40 collets support 0.5 mm to 30 mm O.D. tubing, enabling the VascuLathe to support the manufacture of a wide array of peripheral, cardiovascular, and neurovascular stents
6. Parallel jaw gripper for automated advance of tubing material
7. Manual alignment fixture with precision reference surface and locating pins for rapid replacement of bushing material
8. Lower material centerline reduces machine height and fixture sizes giving a lower profile, more rigid system
9. Sophisticated machine structure facilitates easy alignment, maintenance, and operation
10. Threaded tooling areas located at the front and back of the VascuLathe ease integration of custom material handling features

VascuLathe DS uses a dual spindle configuration to produce twice the output of the standard VascuLathe. For a 10% increase in space (approximate finished machine size) the DS provides a 100% improvement in capacity, further reducing floor space, facility, and manpower requirements. The VascuLathe DS is also very effective at increasing throughput for processes that are intrinsically slow due to laser power or material processing limitations.
For a given part manufacturing tolerance, the VascuLathe produces 13 times as many parts per hour when compared to the entry-level LaserTurn 2.

When cutting speeds and cycle times are fixed by process variables, the VascuLathe can provide a 3X improvement in contour accuracy when compared to the LaserTurn product family.

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STENCILS AND PCB MICROMACHINING

The manufacture of stencils and PCBs presents unique challenges for a laser micromachining system. The relatively large size of the parts coupled with high feature density requires a positioning system with long travel, high rms force output and a stiff mechanical structure to ensure micron-level form accuracy. Aerotech’s AGS15000 series gantry has been optimized for stencil and other high-accuracy, high-throughput laser machining processes. The bridge height is reduced to minimize final working height of the optics, significantly reducing parasitic error motion, and dual linear motors and linear encoders eliminate yaw errors over the full travel.

AGS15000

- Bridge axis driven through its center of gravity to greatly increase the resonant frequency of the system, improving geometric tolerances of the stencil apertures
- Custom cable management systems support Z axes, autofocus height-sensing heads, and fiber-laser beam delivery

Advanced Diagnostics

Advanced frequency analysis tools identify machine resonant conditions to allow the precise setting of servo loop gains and filter coefficients to optimize system performance. System stability criteria are easily observed to provide an indication of the robustness of machine operation.

The AGS15000 series Cartesian gantry system is designed for ultra-precision, high-dynamic contouring. U.S. Patent 7,401,412

The Loop Transmission tuning and diagnostic utility provides an easy and quick method to significantly enhance system performance.
LASER MICROMACHINING COMPONENTS

The majority of laser micromachining applications involve components on the order of 100 x 100 x 100 mm and smaller. Aerotech offers component stages and preconfigured one- to three-axis assemblies that are well-suited for these operational volumes. The recommended platforms are all direct-drive, direct-feedback devices that have the submicron resolution and accuracy required for this application space.

Nano Alignment Systems

- Three-axis X/Y/Z motion platform with pneumatic counterbalanced vertical axis
- Small overall size allows for tabletop scale machine solutions
- Can be configured with rotary axes and goniometers for 4, 5, and 6-axis applications
- Air-bearing options for the highest level of performance

ANT-25LX Linear Motor Stage

- 90 mm wide cross-roller stage with submicron accuracy
- Net 0.3 nm resolution when coupled with the A3200 encoder interpolator allows for the manufacture of very small features

ANT-20G Series Goniometers

- Direct-drive goniometer for improved throughput and accuracy when compared to more common gear-driven units
- Different rotational radii allow the units to be stacked while maintaining a common point of rotation

Aerotech offers both air bearing and mechanical bearing direct-drive, multi-axis, laser micromachining solutions.
SOLUTIONS FOR LASER WELDING

2D AND 3D WELDING

2D and 3D laser welding processes are used in a variety of industries for a vast array of products. Lasers provide a significant advantage in terms of throughput, speed, and weld quality. Aerotech has successfully designed and built a multitude of systems for the most demanding of these applications. The combination of our award-winning controllers and reliable mechanical components results in an edge over any competing technology.

Precision Multi-Axis Assemblies
- Combining linear and rotary axes ensures that the laser beam delivery is perpendicular to the part, providing maximum control over quality and consistency
- Systems can be precision-aligned to maintain tight tolerances and sealed to protect your capital investment

Multi-Axis Linear/Rotary Combinations
- Low profile, direct-drive configurations feature high resolution and a compact form factor – a combination that maximizes productivity per unit of space

Sealed gantry with large offset in the AB rotary axis assembly for offset welding applications.

Direct-drive linear and rotary stages make up this four-axis linear/rotary combination system.
HERMETIC SEAM WELDING

The market for implantable medical devices, such as pacemakers, defibrillators, and neurostimulators, is expanding. As technology advances, the processes required to make these devices safe and effective is becoming increasingly complex. Laser welding, in particular, has allowed the processes to keep pace with the demands of the market. Aerotech has the expertise and experience in medical device manufacturing requirements to provide an optimal solution with maximum return on investment.

HermeSys: A Specially Designed System for Hermetic Seam Welding

• The integrated multi-axis mechanical structure has very high stiffness, which allows high accelerations with minimal following error during the rapid starts/stops and direction changes during the welding process
• Optional dual-driven rotary clamp assembly ensures consistent contact between the half-shells during the welding process
• Three linear axes (X/Y/Z) for welding around case penetrations
• Supports laser heads from multiple vendors with various focal lengths for maximum process flexibility

Real-Time Kinematics in Aerotech’s A3200 Controller

• The weld profile is programmed in linear/arc segments or points on a cubic spline interpolated path, removing the need for complex post-processing tools to create multi-axis laser weld paths
• Part geometry and welding speeds can be optimized on the machine without re-posting the weld profile, increasing productivity
Fuel cells are poised to become a significant part of the global transition to renewable energy sources. Their potential is particularly promising for automotive applications, but the requirements for economic production of fuel cells are not trivial. Laser welding is one of the key technologies in the development of this production process. Aerotech has the answers to these challenges.

**Aerotech Controllers**
- Position Synchronized Output (PSO) for precision laser programming and control on the weld paths in the fuel cell stacks
- Extensive component and application-level diagnostics for easy optimization, such as part path vector error measurement for path program optimization to avoid cumulative errors

**Aerotech Linear Motor Gantry**
- High speed of up to 1 m/s to achieve economical production throughput
- High accuracy and repeatability to maintain tight tolerance and avoid cumulative errors in the fuel cell stacks at those high speeds

The AGS1000 Cartesian gantry provides the high accuracy and repeatability necessary for fuel cell welding applications.
REMOTE LASER WELDING

Remote laser welding involves scanning a fixed focused laser beam over a workpiece from a distance using a mirror mounted on a gimbal. Since minimal setup time is required to position the laser, and the beam may be quickly scanned over a large area with minimal motion, cycle time is significantly reduced.

AMG LP Series
Direct-Drive Gimbals

- High-accuracy angular positioning and high stiffness for precise, repeatable pointing
- Direct drive, brushless servomotors result in zero backlash and arc-second accuracy
- Cog-free design for outstanding velocity stability
- Continuous 360° rotation of azimuth and elevation including built-in slip ring for unlimited application flexibility
- Large mirror capacity well suited for high-power laser applications

AMG LP (Low Profile) gimbals provide precise angular motion with the high performance customers expect from Aerotech products.

A3200 Controller

Utilizing transformation functions in Aerotech’s A3200 controller to transform rotational motion into X/Y Cartesian space allows for simplified programming in linear dimensions or import from CAD drawings.
SOLUTIONS FOR
LASER DRILLING

Nd:Yag and Q-Switched lasers are typically used in laser drilling applications. Laser drilling is usually accomplished using one of two methods: either with percussion laser drilling or trepanning the beam. While percussion drilling is often a faster process, trepanning the beam results in a lower heat-affected zone and allows for complex hole geometries. In both cases, precise contouring of the motion axes is required to maintain tolerances.

3D Hole Drilling for Turbines and Fuel Injectors

Turbine blade and fuel injector hole-drilling requires a complex multi-axis motion platform to ensure the correct orientation and shape of the hole relative to the surface of the part. Depending on the size of the part and required feature accuracy, platforms can be set up as a 5-axis gantry system or split-axis configuration with X/Y/A/B on the machine base and a bridge mounted Z axis.

Featuring/Recommendations:
- A3200 controller
- High-performance linear motor stages (ALS5000/ALS5000WB)
- Direct drive, high-torque rotary tilt axis (ADRT)
- Direct drive, low-profile rotary axis (ADR)

High resolution, direct-drive axes allow micron-level dynamic tolerances for drilling complex contour, deep aspect-ratio holes. Powerful, noncontact linear motors enable high accelerations for rapid direction reversals of complex contours, increasing throughput. Wide-body lower axis minimizes cantilever load effects. Increased bearing separation of tilt axis allows for greater system stiffness and improved part tolerances. Counterbalanced, direct-drive tilt/rotary axes allow arc-second precision positioning of the part in 3D space.

Aerotech’s direct-drive linear and rotary stages offer the accuracy, speed, and resolution required for today’s laser drilling applications.
SOLUTIONS FOR LASER ABLATION

Ultra-fast lasers and excimer lasers are traditionally used in applications where material ablation is required. Ablation is an athermal process where the photon energy of the light is sufficient to break the chemical bonds at the atomic level, converting the material directly from a solid into a plasma. The time duration of the pulse for ultra-fast lasers is shorter than the heat diffusion time in the material, which results in no thermal damage, recasting, or heat-affected zone. The short pulse duration also produces material removal rates that are quite low (nanometers per pulse) when compared to microsecond-regime IR lasers. This small depth of ablation per pulse can be used to create 3D structures on a nanometer scale.

Excimer lasers also work through an ablation process. However, the beam profile is square or rectangular as opposed to the circular pattern typical of ultra-fast lasers. The excimer beam is passed through a mask that clips the beam energy into a pattern defined by the geometry of the mask. This masking technique makes it easy to ablate complex patterns. Feature sizes projected onto the material through the mask can be adjusted by defocusing the laser, and it is possible to build complex three-dimensional patterns in materials using multiple masks and the defocusing technique.

X/Y/Rotary Mask Alignment Platform

- Low profile X/Y/Rotary combination eases integration into existing optical systems while reducing pitch/roll induced positioning errors
- Large, clear 120 mm aperture allows for exposure of large features or placement of multiple beam profiles on a single mask
- Direct-drive linear motor stage has excellent velocity regulation for moving mask applications
- Very stiff mechanical structure with short settling time for high throughput, repeated move and expose sequences

**Featuring/Recommendations:**

- A3200 controller
- High-performance linear motor, open-frame stages (ALS3600)
- Direct drive, open-aperture rotary axis (ADRT)
- Direct drive, low-profile rotary axis (ADRS)

MaskAlign can meet the needs of even the most demanding applications with linear resolution options to 10 nm and rotary resolution of 0.017 arc sec.
SOLUTIONS FOR
LASER ABLATION

Custom Large-Profile
Z-Lift Stage
- Large-aperture Z stage provides a stable platform for focus adjustment
- High-speed linear motors allow for fast focal plane changes to quickly modify mask aspect ratios for 2D and 3D applications
- Standard and custom solutions available to suit most any focal plane adjustment requirements

3D Ultra-Fast Laser Processing
- High-resolution (4.5 nm) lift stage to precisely set focal position in ablation applications
- X/Y air bearings with extremely flat travel maintain consistent focal position over the operating envelope
- Direct-drive linear motors and encoders coupled with the air-bearing linear axes are capable of extremely small step size (10 nm) over large travel areas (100 mm) for the accurate placement of sub-micron part features
MASK AND MEMORY REPAIR

Laser ablation is ideal for the repair of photomasks used in lithography processes as well as the repair of defects in finished semiconductor devices. The increasing density and complexity of the patterns used in modern semiconductor manufacturing processes require precise control of the laser firing position. Precise focal position must also be maintained to limit the variation in spot size. Aerotech’s Position Synchronized Output feature ensures that the laser is triggered in the precise location required to ablate the part defects. Firing can be triggered on the fly from an array of positions that represent part defects found during the inspection process. Planar air-bearing stages are used to position the part because their low working height minimizes Abbe errors at the work point, and flat travel minimizes variations of focal position. Two-axis laser interferometer feedback ensures direct measurement of the part location with sub-nanometer resolution.

Planar X/Y Air Bearing with Laser Interferometer Feedback

- Planar X/Y air-bearing configuration maintains focal position with extremely flat travel characteristics
- Excellent straightness for repeatable raster scanning operations
- 2D planar laser interferometer feedback directly measures part displacement with sub-nanometer resolution
- Optional precision multi-zone vacuum chuck supports different material sizes

Featuring/Recommendations:
- A3200 Motion Controller
- Position Synchronized Output
- ABL9000 planar air bearing with interferometer feedback

This system features air-bearing stages and two-axis laser interferometer feedback to provide sub-nanometer resolution.
SOLUTIONS FOR
LASER SEMICONDUCTOR PROCESSING

Semiconductors are present in nearly every modern electronic device. Developing techniques to maximize yield and minimize cost during manufacturing is essential to remain competitive and successful in today’s marketplace. Lasers have added flexibility during the semiconductor manufacturing process and, coupled with Aerotech’s leading-edge motion developments, will allow your process to remain at the forefront of innovation and efficiency.

WAFER SINGULATION

Wafer singulation (dicing) involves separating the individual silicon chips from a wafer following the processing of the wafer. Singulation with a laser has distinct advantages over a mechanical dicing saw due to the smaller width of the cut, minimized cracking, and reduced heat affected zone, all of which increase the useable process area of the costly wafer.

XYZθ Linear Motor Axes

- High accuracy, minimized dynamic yaw, and excellent dynamic straightness allow narrow streets for wafer dicing
- Optional Z and θ mechanics allow for varying wafer thickness and orientations; scalable mechanics allow handling of multiple wafer sizes

Open-Frame Linear Motor Axes

- Large aperture allows for operations on the top and bottom of the substrate
- Minimized planar flatness eliminates the need for autofocus
- Exceptional geometrical tolerances and inherent orthogonality ensure high tolerances are maintained at high speeds

The ALS3600 is available in travels from 100 mm x 100 mm to 400 mm x 400 mm.

150-200 μm die spacing
Precision integration of the wafer chuck allows for reduced start-up costs
Direct-drive technology guarantees consistent performance over the life of the product

Patented braking mechanism prevents dither on rotary axis during mechanical scribing
Optional Z and θ mechanics allow for varying wafer thickness and orientations

Open-Frame Linear Motor Axes

- Large aperture allows for operations on the top and bottom of the substrate
- Minimized planar flatness eliminates the need for autofocus
- Exceptional geometrical tolerances and inherent orthogonality ensure high tolerances are maintained at high speeds

The ALS3600 is available in travels from 100 mm x 100 mm to 400 mm x 400 mm.
Flat-panel display manufacturing applications present several challenges for motion systems, including optimizing the dynamic characteristics of the system while accommodating increasingly longer travels. To meet these demands, Aerotech has applied our patented technologies to design systems ideally suited for flat-panel display applications.

### Planar Air-Bearing
- Optimized dynamic straightness and yaw characteristics to ensure scan-line parallelism throughout full travel
- Granite reference ensures optimal flatness
- Simplified integration of additional process related systems onto custom bridge structures
- Scalable mechanics can accommodate various panel sizes
- Optional direct-drive rotary stage provides high accuracy rotational motion for fiducial alignment
- Optional high-stiffness Z axis provides focus adjustment to accommodate panel thickness variations while minimizing angular errors induced during XY turns

This gantry-style FPD inspection station features a travel of 1800 x 800 x 200 mm.

**Optional high-stiffness Z axis provides focus adjustment to accommodate panel thickness variations while at the same time minimizing angular errors induced during XY turns.**

**Optional direct-drive rotary stage provides highly accurate rotational motion for fiducial/pattern alignment.**
SOLUTIONS FOR
LASER Scribing

Laser scribing is the process of ablating and removing thin film materials in a variety of patterns. Lasers offer a number of advantages over mechanical scribing, including higher precision processing, greater control during the patterning, smaller kerf width, and quicker processing speeds. Aerotech systems are engineered to take advantage of these capabilities.

PHOTOVOLTAIC MANUFACTURING

Photovoltaic manufacturing processes are a critical focus area for remaining at the cutting edge of sustainable energy technology. Aerotech’s air-bearing stages and SolarScribe subsystems are designed for maximum throughput with the lowest cost of ownership in the industry.

SolarScribe

• Split-axis or gantry configurations to accommodate all PV/FPD scribing applications
• Mechanical- or air-bearing options for a range of performance and cost alternatives
• Advanced control architecture with real-time position-based laser firing output for high quality and throughput
• Custom designs available
• Travels up to 2500 mm
• High acceleration and speed for maximum throughput (up to 5 g and 3 m/s)

Air Bearings for Ultimate Performance

• Outstanding velocity stability
• Ultra-high accuracy and repeatability
• Zero backlash, wear, and maintenance
• High stiffness for heavy or offset loads
SOLUTIONS FOR
LASER MARKING

Laser marking applications use high-speed rotational mirror assemblies, typically referred to as scanners, to direct a laser onto a workpiece. The technology is deployed in a wide array of applications due to its low cost and high speed.

Scanner resolution and accuracy is fixed over the full angular travel of the mirrors. As the field of view of the scanner increases, the effective marking resolution and accuracy decreases. In many applications the scanner is combined with traditional linear or rotary servo axes to mark regions larger than the field of view. The marking sequence consists of a movement by the servo stage followed by a marking operation with the scanner. Using this approach, repetitive marking patterns that fit within a single field of view can be distributed over a large area.

PCB MARKING

PCB marking applications involve the writing of barcodes, symbols, and other character-type data. Multiple PCBs are grouped in pallets and presented to the machine for marking. The small size of the features being marked requires a correspondingly small field of view to ensure legible results. The scanner must be moved over the pallets with an X/Y positioning system to access all the regions to be marked.

Cartesius Standard Duty

- Cartesian gantry configuration eases integration of conveyor systems for automated marking processes
- High-pitch screw option supports speeds in excess of 1000 mm/s for maximum throughput
- Multiple system configurations optimized for various load capacities
- Optional Z axis (shown) for automated focal adjustment

The Cartesius gantry is available in both standard duty (shown) and heavy duty versions to match your application.
LASER MARKING WITH Nmark™ SSaM – A REVOLUTION IN MARKING

Many applications work with patterns that greatly exceed the field of view of the scanner. Traditional solutions for these applications have required linear X/Y and/or rotary motion systems to move the scanner over the marking field. This approach presents alignment problems on the boundaries of the marking patterns. Features that cross the boundaries of adjacent scan areas may not be aligned correctly due to angular error motion that is present in the linear positioning stages.

With Aerotech’s SSaM (Synchronous Scanner and Motion) it is now possible to directly coordinate both servo and scanner axis motion. Vector marking operations that extend beyond the field of view are easily implemented through a synchronous, combined movement of the scanner and servo axes. Rectangular format bitmaps can also be marked in one continuous process. Through direct combination of servo and scanner axes motion, the field of view of the scanner becomes the same size as the total travel of the linear stages. High effective resolution over the full marking area is maintained, along with relative marking accuracy.

SURFACE TEXTURING WITH Nmark™ SSaM

Lasers can be used to alter the surface of materials to influence characteristics such as adhesion, improved wear characteristics, and modifying reflective properties. The depth, shape, and spacing of the features on the surface are defined by the process requirements. Scanners are used extensively in surface texturing applications as the high effective linear positioning speed allows for the fast placement of many thousands of small features. The Aerotech Nmark SSaM makes it possible to mark continuous features on parts that exceed the field of view of the scanner. Keeping the field of view small ensures high positional accuracy while processing under continuous motion removes artifacts that result from “stitching together” multiple fields of view.
WIDE-FORMAT BITMAPS

By combining a single linear servo axis with a scanner, the Nmark™ SSaM BroadMark function makes it possible to mark graphics over the entire travel of the linear stage in one continuous operation. This approach removes overlay errors that occur when the image is created through a series of adjacent bitmaps.

The field of view starts at the left side of the part with the laser marking along this edge. The arrows indicate laser scan direction with red segments indicating the laser on state.

As the linear axis moves the scanner across the part, the laser advances across the field synchronously.

When the linear axis reaches the end of the part, the laser is marking along the right side of the field of view and the operation is complete.

VIRTUAL FIELD OF VIEW MARKING

The Nmark™ SSaM's Virtual Field of View marking function is ideal for applications composed of a number of vector type features that exceed the range of the scanner. The objects to be marked are analyzed for size and location to determine the optimal order of execution. The scanner is directed across the part based on the optimized path and the objects are marked as they come within range of the scanner. Objects exceeding the size of the field of view are marked through combined servo and scanner axis motion.

The arrows shown in this illustration indicate direction of travel of the field of view. The field of view doubles back on itself to mark both sides of the long box on the right.
SOLUTIONS FOR GENERAL LASER PROCESSING

Advanced laser processes demand an equally advanced set of mechanical components to meet today’s demanding specifications. Aerotech’s robust, complete line of linear and rotary stages is designed to take on all environments and applications. Aerotech mechanical systems will outperform any other in laboratory, production, vacuum, and cleanroom environments.

Available options on linear and rotary stages:
• Direct drive or ball screw
• Mechanical bearing or air bearing
• Vacuum preparation
• Cleanroom assembly and preparation

PRO SERIES LINEAR STAGES

The PRO Series is designed to operate in demanding production environments. Four different models with multiple base widths are available to provide maximum flexibility for a wide range of manufacturing applications. Many models of the PRO Series are stocked in the Aerotech Fast Delivery Service program, allowing for shipment in 1-2 weeks or less for time-critical applications.

Key PRO Series features include:
• External mounting features for quick system assembly
• Hardcover design with side seals provide years of maintenance-free operation
• Multiple frame sizes and large travel selection supports a wide range of load requirements
• NEMA motor interface allows for the attachment of standard brush, brushless, and stepper motors
The PRO Series is available in a large range of travels, with many models part of the Aerotech Fast Delivery Service program.

**PRO Series XY**
- Micron-level accuracy and repeatability matches up well with YAG-based laser processing applications
- 5 mm/rev screw suitable for vertical axis applications
- Foldback option available for space-constrained applications

**PRO-HS Series**
- Higher pitch ball-screw allows for speeds up to 1400 mm/s for high-speed machining operations
- Large diameter screw supports travels up to 1500 mm
- Can be combined with standard PRO series stages to optimize speed and load capacity on a per-axis basis

**PRO-LM Series**
- Direct-drive linear motor with linear encoder provides higher top speed and acceleration than the PRO-HS series with improved positioning accuracy
- No ball-screw-related critical speed limitation allows for maximum velocity across the full travel range
- Standard cable management configurations ease the assembly of multi-axis systems
- Multiple frame sizes for maximum system configuration flexibility

The PRO-HS Series uses a higher pitch ball-screw to attain speeds up to 1400 mm/s.

The PRO-LM includes hardcover and side-seal benefits with the higher speed and accuracy available from a linear motor.

PRO-HS Series uses a higher pitch ball-screw to attain speeds up to 1400 mm/s.
LINEAR STAGES AND GANTRIES

ALS Series
- External mounting features for quick system assembly
- Hardcover and side-seal design for years of maintenance-free operation
- Stiffer bearings than the PRO series allow for increased load capacity
- High accuracy linear encoder option for applications that require excellent velocity regulation
- Multiple frame sizes and travel lengths provide system configuration flexibility

ABL1000
- Noncontact air-bearing technology with magnetic preload yields a small footprint for space-constrained applications
- Excellent flatness of motion for small focal depth systems
- Optimized for single axis or short travel X/Y configurations

ABL1500
- Full air preload for increased roll stiffness and higher load carrying capability
- Two frame sizes allow for increased load carrying capacity in X/Y configurations
- Optional high-accuracy encoder for low velocity ripple applications

ABL2000
- Wide cross-section magnetic preload air-bearing allows for higher loads than the ABL1000 series
- Proprietary manufacturing techniques result in excellent pitch, roll, and yaw characteristics
- Optimized cable management system for years of maintenance-free operation

ABL8000
- Active air-bearing preload on all surfaces provides high stiffness for heavy loads
- Wide footprint ideally suited for X/Y applications
- Choice of standard, high accuracy, and laser interferometer feedback devices

Visit www.aerotech.com for
ABL9000
- Full air preload on all surfaces for increased roll stiffness and load carrying capacity
- Co-planar X/Y axes reduces working height to minimize roll and pitch errors
- Exceptional straightness characteristics for high-accuracy laser scribing applications

AGS1000
- Compact design minimizes floor space
- Well suited for marking “move and expose” operations
- CMS expandable to integrate fiber-laser beam delivery
- Optional machine base and risers ease system integration

AGS10000
- Large format gantry with high force linear motors well suited for laser cutting and welding applications
- Stacked X/Y configuration provides clearance for laser optics and material handling within the operating envelope
- Scalable cable management system allows for integration of focus axis and fiber-laser beam delivery

AGS15000
- Planar X/Y design improves system stiffness to minimize contour errors in high-speed cutting and welding processes
- Planar design easily supports the integration of components for “flying optics” applications
- Scalable cable management system allows for integration of focus axis and fiber-laser beam delivery

Cartesius
- T-style gantry allows for clear access on the side of the machine for material load/unload operations
- Standard configurations include left- and right-handed, XY, XYZ, and XZ systems
- Multiple stage widths available to optimize footprint and load capacity for a wide range of applications

our complete product lines.
ROTARY STAGES

ADRS
- Ultra-low profile minimizes working height
- Cog-free slotless motor design for outstanding velocity stability
- Direct-coupled encoder for accurate measurement of table position
- Multiple frame sizes for application flexibility

ADRT
- Large diameter clear aperture for product feed-through or laser beam delivery
- Wide bearing separation for improved moment load capability
- Outstanding wobble and runout characteristics
- Four different frame sizes with multiple stack heights provide a wide range of load carrying capabilities and output torques

ACS
- Integral pneumatic ER collet holder or 3-jaw chuck for automated material handling
- Clear aperture for product feed-through
- Normally open or normally closed gripper options for fail-safe material holding
- Frictionless rotary union provides a lifetime of maintenance-free operation

ALAR
- Direct-drive, large-aperture rotary stage eases integration of laser beam delivery or custom part fixtures
- Limited-travel versions available to support specialized machine configurations
- Large bearings provide high payload and moment load capability
- Five different aperture sizes ranging from 100 mm to 325 mm for maximum flexibility

Visit www.aerotech.com for
our complete product lines.
SOFTW ARE

Use the libraries and SDK to develop your own front-end and applications with .NET, C#, C++, and LabVIEW®

• Easy setup with calculators and Autotune routine
• Use state-of-the-art IDE for developing your motion program
• Second-to-none diagnostics toolkit
• Conditional 2-D error plotting

CONTROLLERS

Automation 3200
• Up to 32 tasks
• PC-based
• RS-274 G-code
• Advanced features for demanding applications
• 1 to 32 axes of coordinated motion
• Scanner control for marking
• Tightly integrated laser functionality
• Retrofit package

Ensemble
• Up to 4 tasks
• Stand-alone 1- to 10-axis controller
• Versatile, cost-effective, coordinated motion
• PWM or linear drives (10-150 A peak)
• Brushless, brush, or stepper motors
• Desktop or panel mount
• .NET, C++, or LabVIEW®

Linear and Rotary Servomotors
CONFIGURE YOUR AUTOMATION SOLUTION WITH AEROTECH

- Scalable  
- Flexible  
- Easy to use  
- Lowest cost of ownership

Soloist
- Elegant, economical, single-axis controller  
- Stand-alone  
- PWM or linear drives  
- (10-150 A peak)  
- .NET, C#, VB.NET®, LabVIEW®  
- Ethernet, USB

Network Connectivity
- Ethernet/IP™  
- Modbus®/TCP  
- DeviceNET  
- Ethernet TCP/IP  
- USB  
- RS-232  
- GPIB

Accessories
Hermetic welding, micromachining, and ablation require precise control and spacing of laser pulses on the material being processed to provide consistent quality. When using a fixed-frequency laser, this is complicated by the need for constant velocity, severely limiting processing speeds when faced with complicated geometries. Aerotech’s PSO solves this problem.

- Aerotech’s Position Synchronized Output (PSO) feature coordinates your motion subsystem with laser firing to produce the highest quality parts and minimize cycle time.
- Fully configurable to interface with lasers equipped with externally synchronized control, including CO₂, YAG, and excimer fiber lasers.
- PSO functionality includes several easily programmed operation modes.

**APPLICATIONS**

**Manufacturing**
- Stents
- Hermetic Welding
- Turbine Blade Holes
- Flat Panel Manufacturing

**Benefits**
- Consistent cuts and welds without burn spots
- Consistent process independent of velocity and acceleration

**FIRING MODES**

**Array-Based Firing**
- PSO fire points are defined in an array based on position.
- Applications include grayscale marking of materials where each pixel has differing frequency and power characteristics, and processing of different materials in the same set of motion commands.

**Windowing**
- Output pulses are restrained inside a user-defined window with the first pulse relative to the edge of the window.
- Excellent for when the processing of a part requires the axes to move beyond the part for settling or direction reversal in applications such as flat-panel manufacturing or fuel injector drilling.
**Fixed Distance Firing**

- Single- or multiple-pulse output as a function of up to three axes’ position feedback
- Minimizes heat-affected zone in welding, cutting, and drilling
- Outstanding for stent manufacturing, hermetic welding, and drilling holes in turbine blades
AEROTECH AT A GLANCE

High Volume Manufacturing

Over 100,000 axes installed worldwide

Worldwide Service and Support

Worldwide startup service and on-site training

Fully equipped on-site training facilities

Corporate Headquarters • Pittsburgh, PA • USA

Aerotech UK  Aerotech Germany  Aerotech Japan  Aerotech China
**Technically Superior Components**

Highest performance brushless linear and rotary motors

AGR rotary stage

**High Performance Sub-Assemblies**

XYAB subsystem for high dynamic accuracy positioning in laser drilling and micromachining applications

**Best-in-Class Subsystems**

Highly integrated motion subsystems with machine frame, display, and packaged electronics

**Comprehensive Technical Support Services**

Custom software application support

3D models to facilitate faster and more accurate system layout

Production-proven, large format air-bearing systems for flat panel and semiconductor applications

Advanced analytical techniques for optimization of system geometry

**Comprehensive Technical Support Services**

Custom software application support

3D models to facilitate faster and more accurate system layout

Production-proven, large format air-bearing systems for flat panel and semiconductor applications

Advanced analytical techniques for optimization of system geometry
Engineered Systems

Aerotech engineers and manufactures specialty high-performance subsystems. Our highly-trained staff of experienced software and hardware engineers enables our customers to get to production readiness faster. Aerotech provides real-time collaborative support – either at your facility, at our facility, or on the web.
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2008 Control Engineering
Engineers’ Choice Award – LaserTurn® 1

Semiconductor International 2008
Editors’ Choice Best Product – Ensemble™

Design News 2008
Golden Mousetrap
Finalist Product – Nmark™ SSaM

Semiconductor International 2007
Editors’ Choice Best Product – WaferMax T™

EuroAsia IC 2006
Industry Award – WaferMax Z™

Design News 2004
Best Product Nominee – Vasculathe®

Product Design and Development
2002 Top 50 Product – Automation 3200

Design News 2002
Best Product Nominee – Automation 3200

Aandrijftechniek
2002 Award – FiberMax®

Lightwave NFOEC 2002
Attendees’ Choice Award – FiberMax®

Lightwave OFC 2001
Attendees’ Choice Award – FiberAlign® 130

CAPABILITIES IN OTHER MARKETS

Photovoltaic, Fuel Cell, and Alternative Energy
Extensive application experience and a broad array of motion products make Aerotech the perfect partner for your photovoltaic (solar cell), fuel cell, and other alternative energy manufacturing and testing platforms. Our worldwide operation has engineered and manufactured a multitude of motion platforms for these markets and we continue to provide innovative solutions.

General Automation
Since 1970, Aerotech has been a manufacturer of top-quality automation products. The breadth of the company’s product line, including automated nanopositioners, planar air-bearing systems, high-speed gantries, linear and rotary and lift stages, brushless linear and rotary servomotors and drives, single- and multi-axis motion controllers, goniometers, and gimbals/optical mounts, makes Aerotech unique among motion control manufacturers. Aerotech is Dedicated to the Science of Motion.

Control Systems
Aerotech motion controllers, motors, and drives are utilized in our own positioning systems and by end users and OEMs worldwide. From our Automation 3200 software-based motion controller that can control up to 32 axes, to the Soloist™ single-axis servo controller, to the Ensemble™ multi-axis stand-alone motion controller, Aerotech provides a variety of options to suit your application.

Semiconductor and Flat Panel
Aerotech designs and manufactures motion control and positioning systems and components for high-precision wafer processing, flat-panel display fabrication, scanning electron microscopy, wafer bumping, lithography equipment, and advanced laser micromachining. We also specialize in systems and components for vacuum applications, such as EUV lithography and scanning electron microscopy.

Military and Aerospace
Aerotech has manufactured hundreds of high-accuracy systems including many for high vacuum (10⁻⁶ torr) and cleanroom environments. Our equipment is used for testing electro-optic systems, high-performance laser processing, materials testing and manufacturing, target tracking, satellite sensor calibration and verification, scanning, optical pointing, repeatability, and life-cycle testing for quality control. Custom systems are available with minimal development time.
Medical Device Manufacturing and Life Sciences

Aerotech manufactures high-performance motion systems and components for medical and life sciences applications including stent cutting, medical laser welding systems for cardiac pacemakers and catheters, IOL and contact lens manufacturing, DNA sequencing, blood sequencing, haptic mills and drills, x-ray machines, magnetic resonance scanners, and CAT scanners. We can customize a medical laser welding system for any need.

Government and Educational Research and Development

The breadth of Aerotech’s product line offers solutions for the wide-ranging requirements of academic and government R&D. Our high performance gantry systems are the choice for solid freeform and slurry deposition fabrication of materials. The fiberoptic line of positioning stages provides the accuracy required not only for photonics experiments, but also for micro- and nano-machining workstations. Aerotech’s multi-axis rotary positioners and gimbals offer the high precision needed for defense, satellite, and space science research. Unique applications call for unique solutions, and Aerotech can provide custom-engineered systems to meet your needs.

Electronics Manufacturing and Assembly

Speed, accuracy, and reliability are the key requirements for pick-and-place machines, stencil cutting machines, printed circuit board assembly, and other electronic manufacturing and assembly equipment. For over 30 years Aerotech has exceeded the most stringent criteria used to judge electronic manufacturing and assembly equipment, and we continue to raise the standard with our advanced motion technologies by addressing industry-specific challenges in pick-and-place machines, stencil cutting machines, and printed circuit board assembly systems.

Test and Inspection

Aerotech is involved in test and inspection across a wide array of industries with applications including CMMs, ultrasonic, eddy current, x-ray, optical, and electronic. All of these applications rely on Aerotech products’ unmatched precision, accuracy, and durability. Optical inspection solutions range from high-end linear-motor-driven models packaged with all control elements in an optimized machine base, to modular systems specifically designed for cost-sensitive applications.

Data Storage

As areal densities and data rates increase, Aerotech has responded by offering motion solutions with sub-arc-second rotary and nanometer-level linear precision while maintaining the 24/7 operational reliability vital to success in today’s data storage industry. Industry-specific features like ESD protection and cleanroom capabilities are standard.
Aerotech’s website at www.aerotech.com is your comprehensive resource for all Aerotech information worldwide. Our online product information is very thorough and better than having a catalog. Each product section comes with all the information available in print and includes downloadable 2D and 3D models. Register for our e-newsletter In Motion to receive news on all of the current activities at Aerotech.

**Product Navigation**
Easy-to-use product navigation intuitively and quickly guides you through our broad product range.

**Select your Market**
Our “select a market” feature details market-specific automation solutions from Aerotech.

**Current Product and Company News**
The most current product and company news is featured prominently on our homepage.

**Worldwide Sales Office Locator**
Use our worldwide sales office locator to quickly find an Aerotech office near you.

**Customer Service**
Our customer service center provides contact information for Aerotech Customer Service worldwide. Also included are details on our training programs, software and product manual downloads, and an FAQ section.
Aerotech offers comprehensive worldwide training and customer service either at customer facilities or at one of our Aerotech training centers.

**Our Training Program Features:**

- Standard and customized courses
- Hands-on training with Aerotech positioning systems
- Interactive training with experienced instructors
- Comfortable, spacious facilities

**Installation and Start up (Commissioning)**

Aerotech offers startup and commissioning services to minimize startup times, reduce cost, and accelerate time-to-production. By combining our product knowledge with your process and application expertise, new systems and applications can be completed faster and at a reduced overall cost.

**Engineering Support**

Aerotech provides complete engineering support for our products, including onsite support and maintenance, and remote support via phone, fax, website, and/or WebEx® software. As a manufacturer staffed by engineers, we understand the unacceptability of downtime.

**Training**

Aerotech training classes are designed to help our customers realize the full potential of our products. By demonstrating all of a product’s features and how to use them, customers have been able to reduce startup time and quickly optimize their applications. Aerotech’s classes have been developed, and continually upgraded, using feedback from our customers.

Aerotech has over 38 years of expertise in designing motion control and positioning systems and components with an unsurpassed track record of reliability. When you make the choice to purchase from Aerotech, we urge you to learn how to get the most from your new Aerotech products. Aerotech provides both on-site (your facility) and/or in-house (our facility) training for our customers’ convenience.