

» Together with our customers: In their own words

AMADA Co., Ltd.

AMADA was founded in 1946. As a comprehensive manufacturer of metalworking machinery, AMADA is now involved in manufacturing, sales and servicing of its machines around the globe.

In addition to processing machinery in four sectors, namely sheet metal machines, press machines, cutting and drilling machines, and machine tools, AMADA markets computer software and peripheral devices for control of such machines as well as tooling and maintenance services as solutions.



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Counting on THK, a brand known around the world, for reliability and carefully cultivated expertise

How did you come to start using THK products?

From what we've heard, the relationship with THK began before we joined the company. For the laser machines that we work with, the low-noise LM Guide with a ball retainer was recommended to us because of its long maintenance-free service life, along with the QZ lubrication system, so we've been using those products.

The guide components inside a laser machine are extremely important for ensuring precision. Our customers run these machines at full capacity 24 hours a day, so they get worked very hard. If the guide components wear out or break, the machine can't operate, and that means big trouble for the customer. But with THK products, we don't have to worry about that very much, which is a big relief.

With THK, the brand itself is very attractive. THK is recognized as the world leader for guide components. That reputation comes from a combination of technology, functionality, and durability, which translate into a very high level of reliability.

Didn't one of your products, the FOL-3015AJ, win the Masuda Award?

Yes. It was recognized as one of the 10 best new products of the year by the newspaper Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun and also won the Masuda Award, which goes to the product that contributes to the progress of *monozukuri* and helps make Japan more competitive. It's a great honor. The FOL-3015AJ is a laser machine equipped with a new fiber laser oscillator, the first in Japan capable of generating 4 kilowatts of output. This makes it possible to do laser processing on metals such as copper and aluminum, which used to present problems for conventional lasers, and

that's why the product was selected for the award. In this machine as well, of course, we take advantage of THK's accumulated expertise and use their products, including the LM Guide, Cross-Roller Ring, and Cam Follower, at key points.

The FOL model was completely revamped last year and equipped with a fiber laser, but even before that it was considered the world's fastest laser machine. While working to reach the world's highest speed and attain a maximum acceleration of 5G, we often turned to people at THK for advice. We've had a lot of technical discussions with THK, especially when developing new products.



The FOL-3015AJ

What do you expect from THK in the future?

AMADA has production facilities in China, France, and the United States. As our activities become increasingly globalized and we do more optimal-site production, we have to maintain the same level of quality and the same lead times, even when we rely on local procurement. As dealings among businesses in different countries increase, there will be an increasing need for flexibility. At the same time, in order for us to succeed in global competition, it will be essential to set a rapid pace in developing new products. For this reason, we have high hopes that THK will be developing its own new products at a rapid rate. We'll be looking to them for continued cooperation in the future.