



VDL KTI

## We do absolutely everything in-house

Dorus van Leeuwen, Managing Director VDL KTI

**VDL KTI is a one-stop shop: it has all the necessary production facilities, from cutting, rolling and machining the base materials to blasting, metallizing and painting for the final treatment. "Everything is done in-house, so that we don't have to depend on other parties."**

In 2019, the company invested in a bed-type milling machine to expand the machining department. In that same year, it also installed a new bending machine and a CNC plasma cutting machine. "We now use the very latest machines that are capable of cutting all types of metal plates, including the welding seams," says Dorus van Leeuwen. "We use modern cutting technologies." VDL KTI specialises in plasma cutting. "Thanks to these machines, we can perform plasma cutting underwater with an electric arc," says van Leeuwen. "This is done in water tanks that are 14 metres long. By cutting metal plates underwater, the materials can be cooled down more rapidly. Cooler temperatures mean that the structure of the materials isn't affected as quickly, and therefore the plates deform not as much. The process also causes less noise and dust, which is an added health benefit for the workers."

VDL KTI has four rolling machines that can be used for rolling plates with different thickness. "In the past, we outsourced the rolling work of metal plates," says Dorus van Leeuwen. "But we have taken this task back in recent years. Now we are able to manage difficult products very well and we have developed our expertise in plate rolling. In fact, we can make cones and many other special shapes out of metal plates right here at the plant."

VDL KTI can perform all types of surface treatment, including metallizing or TSA (thermal spray aluminium). "For example, we add a thin layer of aluminium or zinc between the paint and the metal to provide additional protection," says Van Leeuwen. "This is important for systems that require a guaranteed service life of 20 to 30 years." VDL KTI is able to work very quickly and independently. "We don't have to rely on a whole list of other partners," says Dorus van Leeuwen. "This gives us incredible flexibility to execute our orders. We do absolutely everything in-house. The workshop is supported by a large back office team consisting of mechanical and welding engineers, project managers and a very extensive quality assurance and quality control department. A customer often comes to us with a basic design which we then develop further in detail."