Press Release for October issue of EMDM

Laser Fine Cutting

Rofin StarCut Tube: A Laser Cutting System on its Way to Splitting Hairs

The StarCut Tube is a fully equipped laser system for cutting nearly any geometry of stents or tubular material.
The StarCut 18 laser can easily be changed from fundamental to low order modes operating at frequencies up to 3000 Hz. Kerf widths of less than 20 microns are used in daily operation. The system is equipped with an automatic feeding system and tubes of any length can be loaded. An easy to use external software package converts dxf or dwg files into the nc code. The graphical display of the cut geometry is displayed on the monitor of the CNC and allows an easy check prior the cutting process.
Laser cuts are done in dry mode without the use of any fluid inside the tube material. This makes the process easy, reliable and nearly maintenance free. The sophisticated cutting nozzle in combination with a stereo microscope and optional camera allows an easy set up of the system to the individual tube diameters. Nearly any metal material like SS, Tantalum, Platinum, Chromium cobalt alloys or the heat sensitive shape memory Nitinol alloy material can be cut.
The Micro group of Rofin lays major emphasis not only on laser sources. Standard laser systems and totally customized is another strength. A group of engineers are working in the application lab evaluating new processes in fine cutting, welding structuring or marking processes.

One of the recent result is in the field of fine cutting. Based on the wide experience out of the stents cutting application new dimensions in accuracy have been reached. Now it is possible to cut tube diameters down to 200 microns outside diameter. Side hole cutting or slotting or profiling the needlepoint without damaging the opposite wall is achieved.
Challenge us for new applications.

Fig. 1
The StarTube is a fully automatic laser cutting system

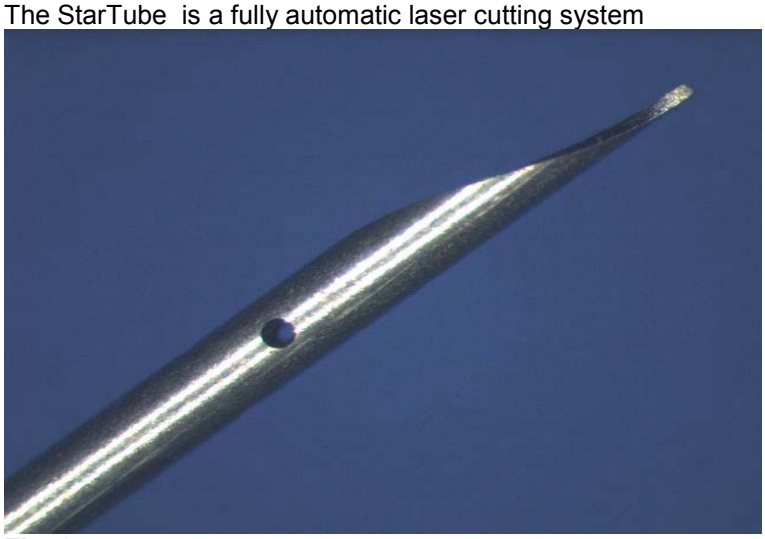

Fig. 2
Cutting of a 200 micron tube

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