

FAQ

How long has Lincoln Electric Cutting Systems been in business?

In 1979, in Harwood, Maryland, Applied Robotics, Inc. began offering a low-cost, motor-driven, pantographic shape cutting machine, the **Torchmate**. It allowed an operator to trace the shape of an existing part and make torch-cut a replica from metal quickly, easily, and with reproducibly high-quality. With such equipment, thousands of smaller production shops and prototype makers were able to improve their profitability and the satisfaction of their own customers. This was Torchmate's exact purpose: to increase quality and value for customers while lowering the cost of the products.



With the pantograph business established, Torchmate's designers took the opportunity to develop new, low-cost machines using the latest creations of the microelectronics revolution: **CNC** (computer numeric controlled) shape cutting machines. By 1998, using reliable, accurate, inexpensive stepper motors controlled by computer software, a new Torchmate system could now produce intricate, precise, computer-designed parts with reliability and speed using a cutting torch or plasma cutter that moved robotically in two dimensions. Again, a Torchmate machine was able to upgrade quality, lower costs, and increase profits for Torchmate customers.



As the demand for Torchmate CNC Cutting Systems grew, Torchmate and its customers gained experience and achieved boosts in productivity. The market strengthened for machines with additional speed, size, and features. Torchmate moved its manufacturing to the Reno / Lake Tahoe area and responded with newer models that added these capabilities, keeping always to the design goal of increasing value to the customer while reducing costs. The family of Torchmate products has continued to improve as machines have been delivered to 85 countries throughout the world.



Cutting Systems



Long before this time, in 1895, near Cleveland, Ohio, **Lincoln Electric** got its start designing and selling electric motors. By 1911, Lincoln Electric was manufacturing and selling portable arc welding equipment, and constantly looking to improve welding technology and education. Arc welders and supplies became the primary business in 1922, and that continues today. Following the 1980s, Lincoln Electric enlarged into a **global** operation with sales and manufacturing expanding throughout the world.



As Lincoln Electric's vision of the metal fabricating industry evolved, it saw its role expanding to include cutting the parts that welders would weld, and in the first years of the **21st century**, it sought out opportunities in automated cutting. One of those opportunities was **Vernon Tool**, an established manufacturer of computer controlled pipe cutting and profiling equipment. Vernon Tool cutters create weld-ready ends on pipe and tubing sections, which can form fluid pipelines and structural supports. Another such opportunity was **Torchmate**.



It has long been the primary business principle of **Lincoln Electric Company** to make a better product at a lower price, so when Lincoln Electric decided to expand its place in the metals fabrication market to include automated cutting as well as welding, it found Torchmate was not only making the kinds of products that supported the expansion, but was also an organization that operated on the same principles. With a **vision** of supporting both the cutting and welding of all kinds of metal parts, a new cooperative organization was formed in 2011, joining the Torchmate and Vernon Tool brands in Reno under the name **Lincoln Electric Cutting Systems**.

With the strength of Lincoln Electric behind it, and the continuing determination to offer high value at low cost to large and small customers alike, the Torchmate CNC tables and Vernon Tool automated pipe cutting machines from Lincoln Electric Cutting Systems now provide any small production shop, prototype shop, as well as larger industrial operations with the kind of **support and commitment** that produces the confidence needed to invest in this exciting equipment and the future.