



The coronavirus pandemic took many by surprise— but not Taiwan. Best known as an electronics powerhouse, the small island, with a population of 24-million people, had the highest mortality rate anywhere in the world during the 2003 SARS outbreak. Following that shock, the Taiwanese people promised themselves they would be ready when the next epidemic came; every effort was made to improve the country’s disease control and prevention mechanisms.

The results are apparent today: less than 60 local cases since January 2020, Taiwan may be (as of January 2021) the last remaining COVID-19-free place on earth.

Just like the rest of Taiwan, COVID-19 didn’t catch Battery Technology Source (BTS) off guard, and even in the middle of the pandemic it was able to send car and motorcycle battery inter-cell welding (ICW) equipment to countries as diverse as Argentina, Vietnam, Brazil and India.

That is because, for years, the company has been implementing Industry 4.0 and advanced networking features, including an exclusive mobile app.

“That certainly made it easier for us to support our customers during the pandemic,” says its CEO, Alvin Huang. He believes such features will become even more important once

Acid filling line



BTS— poised to thrive after the global pandemic

the recovery is in full swing: “Every time a new technology emerges, we ask ourselves how it could be used to give our customers a competitive edge. Now, we look forward to adding 5G connectivity to our machines.”

Strong foundations

Taiwan is home to a thriving lead-acid battery industry. Alongside a strong manufacturing base, a closely knit network of component and equipment suppliers has formed on the island. Most of them are family-owned small and medium-sized enterprises with a narrow field of specialisation— often just one product.

In comparison, BTS feels almost like a start-up. With its young, international team (CEO Huang was born in Indonesia, where the company has a branch office), the Taichung-based supplier of lead-acid battery ICW equipment has managed to differentiate itself with a focus on automation and advanced features; reaching milestones such as the world’s fastest motorcycle battery assembly line.

BTS was founded in 2008 by a team of industry veterans headed by Mr. Lin Ching Yuan, a plastic injection and ICW expert with more than three decades of experience.

The timing could not have been better

because after that year’s financial crisis, Taiwan’s neighbouring economies rapidly took off. For many battery manufacturers, it was the perfect moment to make the leap from mostly manual equipment to a fully automated setup. BTS was instrumental to that process.

At the time, it was Mr. Lin’s ICW expertise that first drew customers in. Under his guidance, BTS engineers developed an exclusive, patented formula for setting the squeeze distance, dramatically improving welding quality regardless of the lead straps’ temperature and hardness. “We have continuously refined this with additions like an ultraprecise, servo-controlled welding jaw and JCW, which is still the crown jewel in our portfolio,” says Huang.

But BTS did not want to become yet another niche manufacturer. “From the beginning, it was our ambition to cover as many processes as possible: from plate production to acid filling,” says Huang. In 2020, the latter made up 30% of the company’s new orders, including several car and motorcycle battery finishing lines for GS Yuasa factories in South Asia. 🍀

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