



STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS

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STEEL PLATE
SOLUTIONS
(PTY) LTD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Meet our SPS Team
Finance

SPCA Donation
Richards Bay

Why South Africa?

Fuel Price Increase:
What this means for us

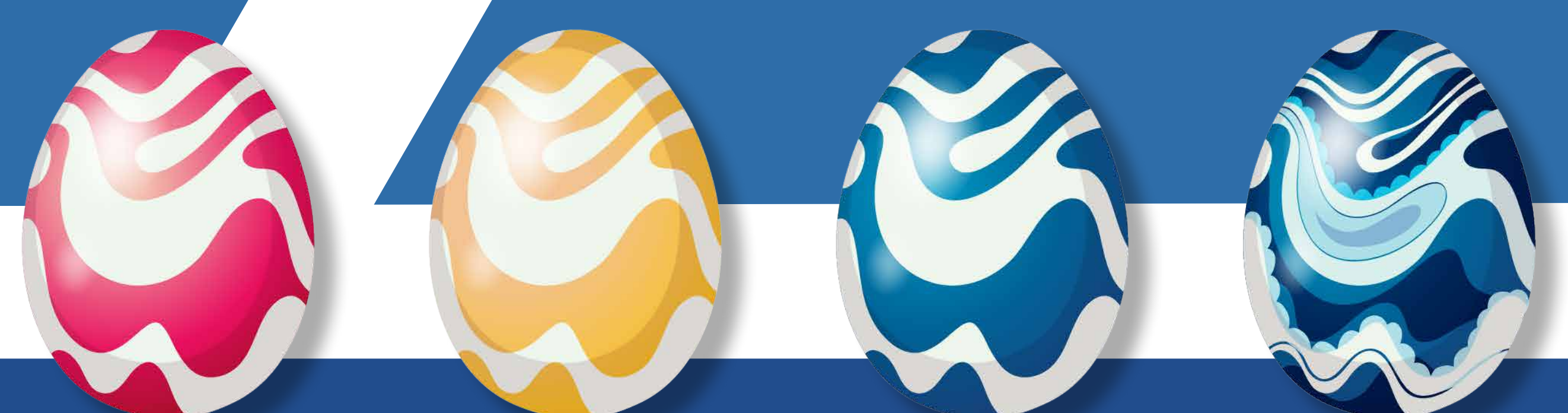
Happy Easter

Recent Projects



TEAM SPS RICHARDS BAY

THE PLATE BULLETIN



Numbers, Laughter & a Lot of Coffee

Meet SPS Team Finance

At SPS, there's a lot happening behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly. While the workshop brings projects to life, the finance team ensures everything stays supported and on track.

This month, we wanted to shine the spotlight on two incredible women, who play a key role in keeping SPS moving forward: **Katelyn and Liezl**.



Liezl Vorster:

Keeping things moving, one detail at a time

Since joining us in September 2021 as a Creditors Clerk and Finance Assistant, Liezl's become one of those people you quietly rely on... because she's involved in just about everything...

"Working in Finance is always stressful, attending to daily orders, dealing with suppliers, fleet control, finance duties and assisting with anything else needed."

It's the kind of role where you don't just stick to one lane. You jump in wherever needed, solve problems as they come, and keep things moving no matter what the day throws at you.

And while finance can often feel removed from operations, Liezl has found her sweet spot right in the middle of it all - especially when it comes to the workshop and fleet: "I really enjoy being hands on with the Fleet control and workshop related duties."

That connection to what's happening in the workshop is what makes everything real for her, it's not just numbers, it's part of something tangible. Which is why one of her favourite moments is seeing projects come together at the end:

"Seeing the end results of the projects coming out of the workshop such as the ETT Tanks and the T3 Pontoons. The Pontoons were so cool to see."

And if you've spent any time in the Richards Bay office, you'll know it's not all serious, even if it feels like it sometimes.



From Left: Liezl Vorster (Creditors Clerk, Finance Assistant) and Katelyn Deetlefs (Financial Director / HR)

"We are always stressed out about something but always ready for good laugh. And the topic of food is always on someone's mind in the office. Kiara in particular is our office foodie - LOL"

Liezl's roots stretch across Mpumalanga and KZN, but she spent most of her time growing up in Pongola - a small, hot, drive-by town that shaped her grounded and down-to-earth nature. (Which sounds a bit like Richards Bay :) Outside of work, she keeps busy with creative hobbies, reading, and makes the most of any opportunity to be by the ocean in Ballito.

The one part of her that might surprise you is...

"I am a Treasure hunt fanatic. One of the things I have been following religiously for many is the the 230 year old treasure mystery undiscovered on a private island on Nova Scotia, Canada.

When it comes to what SPS means to her, it's all about contribution: "Being part of the contribution. The role I play, whether big or small, in helping the company moving forward and achieving goals."

And that's exactly what she does every day, keeping things on track, supporting the bigger picture, and making sure nothing slips through the cracks. Thank you Liezl!



Katelyn Deetlefs:

Mastering the Art of "Organised Chaos"

If you've ever wondered what keeps everything ticking behind the scenes at SPS, there's a good chance Katelyn has something to do with it.

Having been part of SPS since day one in 2014 (with a small break in between - "if you know, you know" ;), she's seen the company grow, evolve, and push forward through every phase.

As Financial Director and HR, her role doesn't really fit into a neat little box... and that's what she likes about it too.

Because for Katelyn, no two days are ever the same:

"Every day is different, from HR matters to booking exchange rates, dealing with supplier or customer queries and everything in between."

It's the kind of role where you can start your morning with spreadsheets and end it solving a completely unexpected problem - and somehow, she makes it all work.

Or as she puts it best: **"It's organised chaos."**

And while she often looks calm and in control on the outside, there's always more going on behind the scenes:

"I might seem cool, calm and collected at times but I'm always thinking of work and my never-ending to-do list."

Surprisingly enough, even though most people don't like a challenge, for Katelyn, she loves it (even if she doesn't admit it straight away):

"The constant challenges which I often complain about but actually love!"

But beyond the spreadsheets, systems, and decisions she makes, it's the people that really make it for her:

"The different people and personalities of the Team – we are lucky to have a fun bunch of people working at both branches."

And if you step into the Richards Bay office, you'll quickly get a sense of what they're all about: "Hard workers fuelled by great coffee and where food is always a top priority."

Outside of work, Katelyn's world shifts and her time is spent with her toddler and enjoying the outdoors, whether that's the beach, the bush, or the berg.

She didn't mention it but another fun fact is that she is also an incredible photographer!

And what's something she's looking forward to this year?

"Meeting my nephew who was born recently in Vienna, Austria :)"

"SPS is a big part of my life, the people here are like family to me and I always feel at home here."

Quick Q&A with Finance:

Coffee or Tea?

Liezl: Coffee

Katelyn: Coffee, hands down.

Favourite food?

Liezl: Sushi

Katelyn: Anything italian

Dream holiday destination?

Liezl: A 'Wee break' in the scenic locations of Scotland and Nova Scotia, Canada

Katelyn: Okavango Delta

SPCA Donation

Those of you who know us, know that animals are extremely close to our hearts.

We'd like to thank the SPCA Richards Bay team for always doing their best and helping those in need.

Thanks to Sheldon Jackson, from our SPS Richards Bay branch, for delivering our recent donation, on the 18th March, to them.



“WHY SOUTH AFRICA?”

If you're looking for reasons 'Why South Africa,' amidst all the negative news and feelings you may have daily towards it, I have an article for you. And it is so incredibly personal and close to home because it is my experience and story.

After living abroad in the Netherlands for the past 2 years and recently returning home to South Africa, the one question that absolutely everyone has asked me, is **“But why return...”**, with many instant follow-ups being; **“You should have stayed there...”** and **“Life is better on that side.”**

And I must say, before leaving SA, I too had that mindset; the common phrase of **“the grass is always greener on the other side...”** And for some people, yes, perhaps it is, but for me... that just wasn't the case, and I am here to tell you why I **CHOOSE** South Africa, and to help us truly appreciate what we have right in front of us.

Yes, I agree, we may have our problems with crime, corruption, etc, but what I have come to realise is that every country in the world has its pros and cons, and you just have to see what's most important for you. In this article I am in no way bringing down another country (like the Netherlands where I was based) as they were incredibly kind to me and I had some truly great moments,

“

....however, the purpose of this article is to remind you of those very unique and beautiful 'pros' that we have in this country

”

For one, our food and meat selection in South Africa really is next level. I didn't quite appreciate a rump steak as much as I did when I moved abroad.



Written by
Kiana Kramer

I found myself spending time searching shelf after shelf just to find a piece of meat that is half as decent in quality or size as we get here. Our standards are incredibly high. I trekked a few times across the border to Germany to get a slightly better piece of meat, and *still not feeling as satisfied as a marinated, 28 day aged piece of steak on the braai*. Even if I found something that I would consider eating, I had to fork up €10 for 200g, which is approximately R1000 per kg.



Here's another example...

Are you a Maccie D's (McDonald's) fan? Then this one is for you. On our way home whilst at the airport in Amsterdam, we made a stop at McDonald's to get a quick bite before our Kenya Airways flight (if you know me, you know I am a foodie). I wasn't shocked as I was used to the prices at that point, but coming home to South Africa made me realise it was insane... One Big Mac Meal (exactly what you'd expect in SA), was €14, which is just under R280.

Even if we take prices and costs aside, in South Africa we have an incredibly diverse and unique palate, filled with plenty of flavour and spice.

» **Think of your favourite homemade bobotie - that mince that's rich in spices and flavour.**



» **Think of our pap, chak and boerie combinations which make you salivate at the thought.**



» **Think of our incredible bunny chows and Indian curries, the kind of flavour you won't find anywhere else in the world.**



“WHY SOUTH AFRICA?”



Written by
Kiana Kramer

Even though I like a bit of spice and heat, at most in SA I can maybe take down a medium hot curry. Abroad I chose the hot version of everything, waiting and expecting that kick we get out of our food here, but unfortunately it didn't quite hit the same and was all very mild.

If you're a music person you'll be able to relate to this. I grew up with my mom enjoying Kurt Darren's music, and specifically a song called '*Bloubergstrand Se Sonsak*.' One day while working at my corporate office abroad, a song played on their radio, and I immediately thought, "*No... it can't be*".... It was the same song, just not right – it was a Nederlandse version.

Take a listen to '*Dromendans*' by a Dutch singer *Vinzzent*. I immediately played Kurt Darren's song for a Dutch colleague. For me, it meant the world - it was home. However, for her, it was meaningless and just a passing comment, as she could not relate (and understandably so).

I never thought I'd say this, but Kurt Darren, you made my mood x200!

That links to another thing – our people, you get great people all around the world, but none that can relate to us like we can to each other.

We are all connected through our experiences, both positive and negative within SA.

“

How many times are you in the shops in a queue and just start talking to someone – it's easy, effortless, and we can relate.

”

- ② Perhaps we bring up how we are from Durban, and they are too.
- ② How many people have we met (even at work), and become friends with, and braai together outside of the work environment?

I know for me, this was extremely common in SA, but not so common abroad.

This is unique and special. We already know and understand each other on a deeper level, and we connect. We have a unique sense of humour, and somehow often get through tough times with a laugh, maybe a bit of a rage fit, but nevertheless, we work through things and feel deep emotion at the same time, which is an amazing thing, believe you me. We have life.

We as South Africans go through a lot, which just makes us a tougher and stronger nation.
We are resilient.

- **Are you a dancer?** Perhaps you are a Sokkie machine. This is unique to our country, culture and jol spots.
- **Are you an adventurer and outdoorsy person?** We are blessed to have the sunshine and vitamin D mostly throughout the year. It feels like our sun shines brighter, and we often don't realise the impact that the sun has on us, positively. I am happy and grateful to be back in SA, look outside the window and see blue skies, sunshine and a beautiful sunset.
- **Are you a road tripper and car lover?** Yes our public transport isn't exactly *Efficiency101*, but to be honest, I appreciate having my car back and the absolute freedom on the roads. Play some good music, and go at 120 km/h on the highway (often speed limits were 80 km/h on average to get to work). I was catching a bus daily in the rain, so I am grateful to have the freedom of the road again. It's one of my favourite pastimes.

“WHY SOUTH AFRICA?”

- **Do you like space and a garden?** We are blessed with space, mountains, hills, a variety of scenery and larger homes/gardens to choose from
- **Are you a bush person?** We are blessed to have so much wildlife around us. So many of my colleagues and friends in the Netherlands dreamed of going on ‘safari’ and we seem to have taken it for granted
- After I arrived back in December, **I got back in the Indian ocean again**, and I can tell you that it is different - it’s warm, familiar and is just feel-good therapy.

And lastly, think of your family and friends, and how blessed we are to have such incredibly special people in our lives.

“

Let’s appreciate the fact that we have those who are special to us nearby, that you can visit your mom, dad, son, brother or friend for a cup of coffee and a hug when you need it. That is the best part of it all.

”

What I am trying to say is, amidst all the negative news spreading, and the not-so-good things that may happen, there is still so much to be grateful for in South Africa.

Thinking back to my time overseas, I yearned for a South African song, a piece of biltong, sunshine and family and friends, and I noticed that my face always lit up speaking of HOME. It even gets me emotional writing about this, because there truly is no place like it.



Written by
Kiana Kramer

So my answer to everyone asking me ‘Why SA’ is, ‘Why Not SA?’

Our people, our music, our food, our culture, our country.

Thank you South Africa
for being the place
I belong!



Happy Easter!

As the Easter break approaches, we want to take a moment to extend our warmest wishes to every member of Team SPS and our valued clients. We hope the long weekend gives you the chance to slow down a bit, recharge, and spend time with the people who matter most.

And of course, it wouldn’t be Easter without a proper conversation about hot cross buns. South Africa still holds its reputation here, and the question remains... who’s taking the top spot this year? Woolworths always sets the bar, but there are a few strong contenders out there. If you’ve found a winner, we’d love to hear it.

Wherever you are this Easter, we hope it brings a bit of balance, good energy, and something sweet on the side.

Thank you for being part of the SPS journey.

Wishing you a great Easter break.





Hefty fuel price increase

Buckle up for up to R10 p/litre on diesel

South Africa is heading into April 2026 facing a sharp fuel price increase - and it's not just another monthly adjustment. This one is different. It's the result of multiple pressures hitting at the same time, creating what can only be described as a perfect storm

It started globally. Rising tensions in the Middle East pushed oil prices above \$100 per barrel, with concerns around supply disruptions through key routes like the Strait of Hormuz. When global oil prices rise, South Africa feels it almost immediately because we import fuel based on international pricing.

At the same time, the rand hasn't been strong enough to absorb the impact. Since fuel is priced in US dollars, any weakness in the rand makes imports even more expensive.

Locally, government levies also increased from 1 April. While these increases are relatively small on their own, they add extra pressure on top of already rising international prices.

The result? A significant jump, particularly in diesel, which does effect our economy hugely.

What This Means in Real Life

For everyday South Africans, the impact is immediate, with obvious consequences of higher petrol costs when filling up. It thus also makes transport more expensive. The real longer term impact is not just our personal fuel, but the knock on effect of food prices, deliveries and overall costs of living.

For businesses, especially in industries like steel, mining, engineering, and logistics, the pressure will be larger. It powers trucks, heavy machinery, and the movement of goods across the country. When diesel prices spike:

- Transport costs increase
- Supplier pricing shifts
- Margins tighten
- Project costs rise



For companies like SPS, this doesn't just affect operations internally - it impacts customers too. Higher fuel costs across the value chain influence how clients plan, order, and spend.

The Bigger Picture

This increase highlights something important: South Africa remains highly exposed to global energy markets.

When oil prices rise globally, and the rand is under pressure, there is very little buffer. Add local levies on top, and the effect compounds quickly.

Staying Ahead of Rising Fuel Costs

For Businesses

- Optimise delivery routes and combine loads where possible
- Communicate early with customers about cost or timeline changes
- Introduce fuel surcharges or shorter quote validity periods
- Strengthen relationships with suppliers and transport partners
- Reduce unnecessary trips through better planning

For Individuals

- Combine errands into fewer trips
- Track where your money is actually going (small leaks add up)
- Carpool when possible
- Reduce impulse purchases by planning ahead
- Invest in skills that can increase your earning potential

Key Highlights

- Global oil spike driven by geopolitical tensions pushed fuel costs up
- Weaker rand made imported fuel more expensive
- Fuel levies increased from 1 April, adding further pressure
- Diesel is the biggest concern due to its role in transport and industry
- Consumers will feel it quickly through higher living and transport costs
- Businesses face margin pressure and rising operational expenses
- Entire supply chains are affected, not just transport companies

SPS PROJECTS

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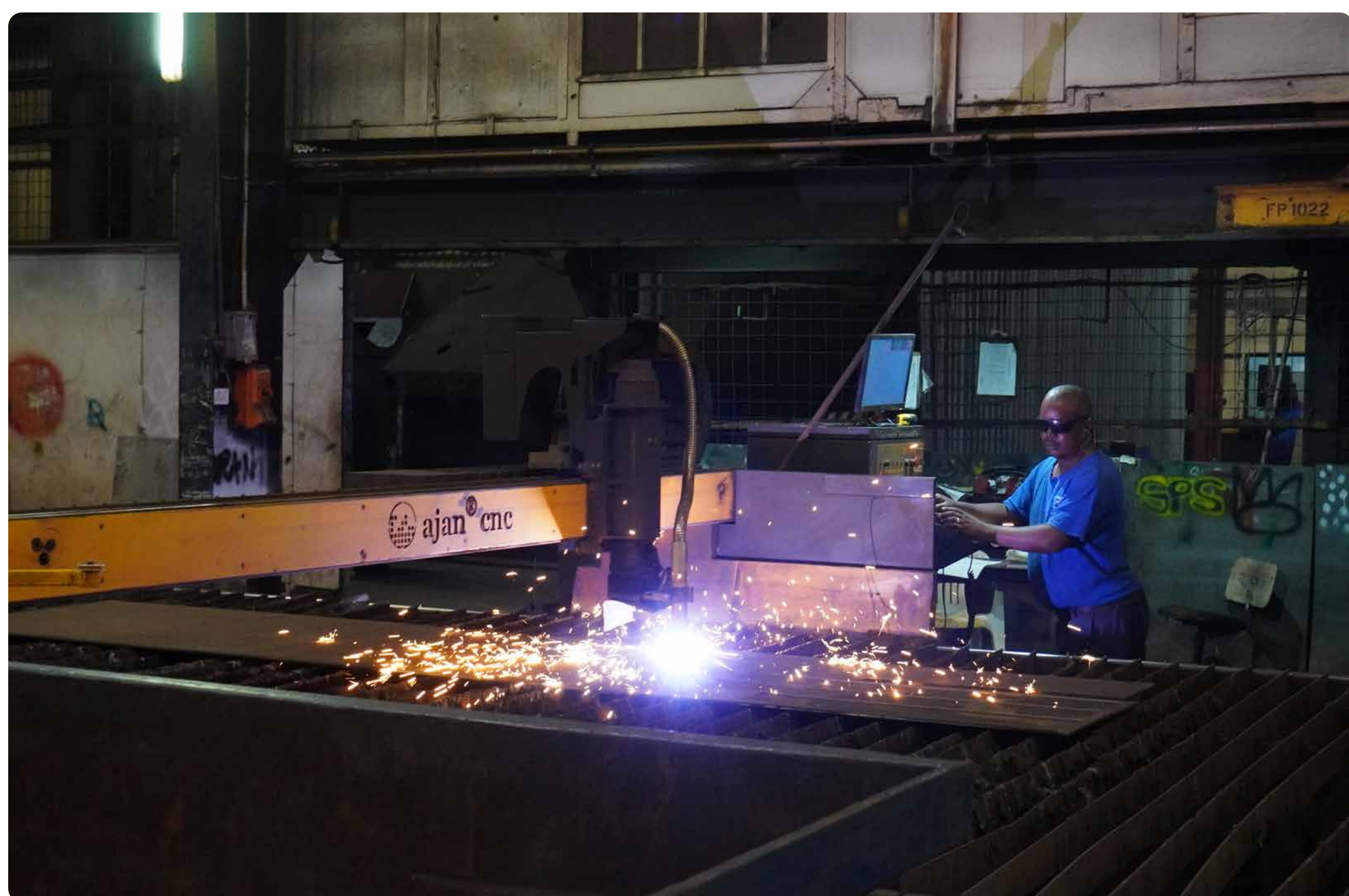
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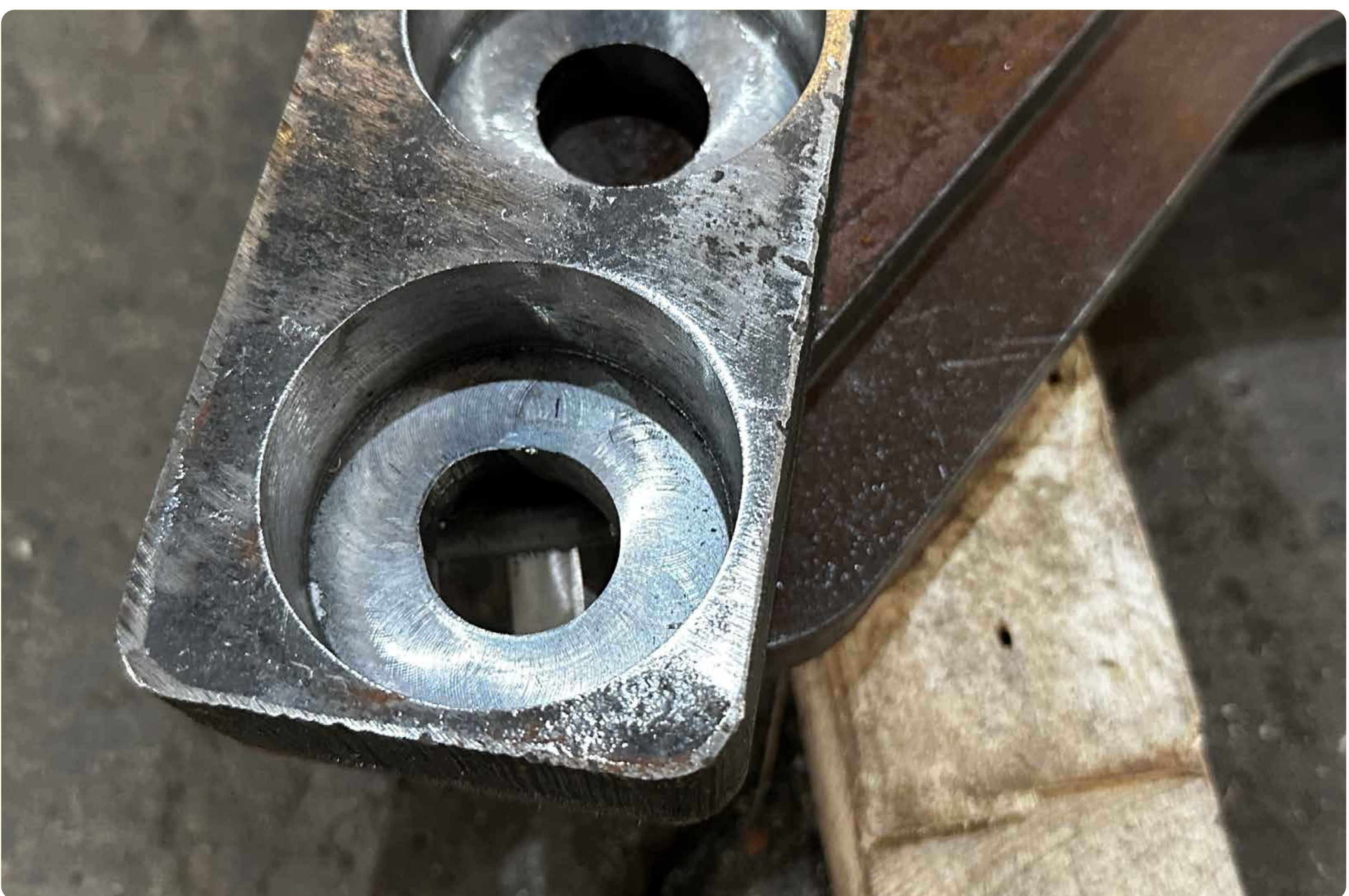
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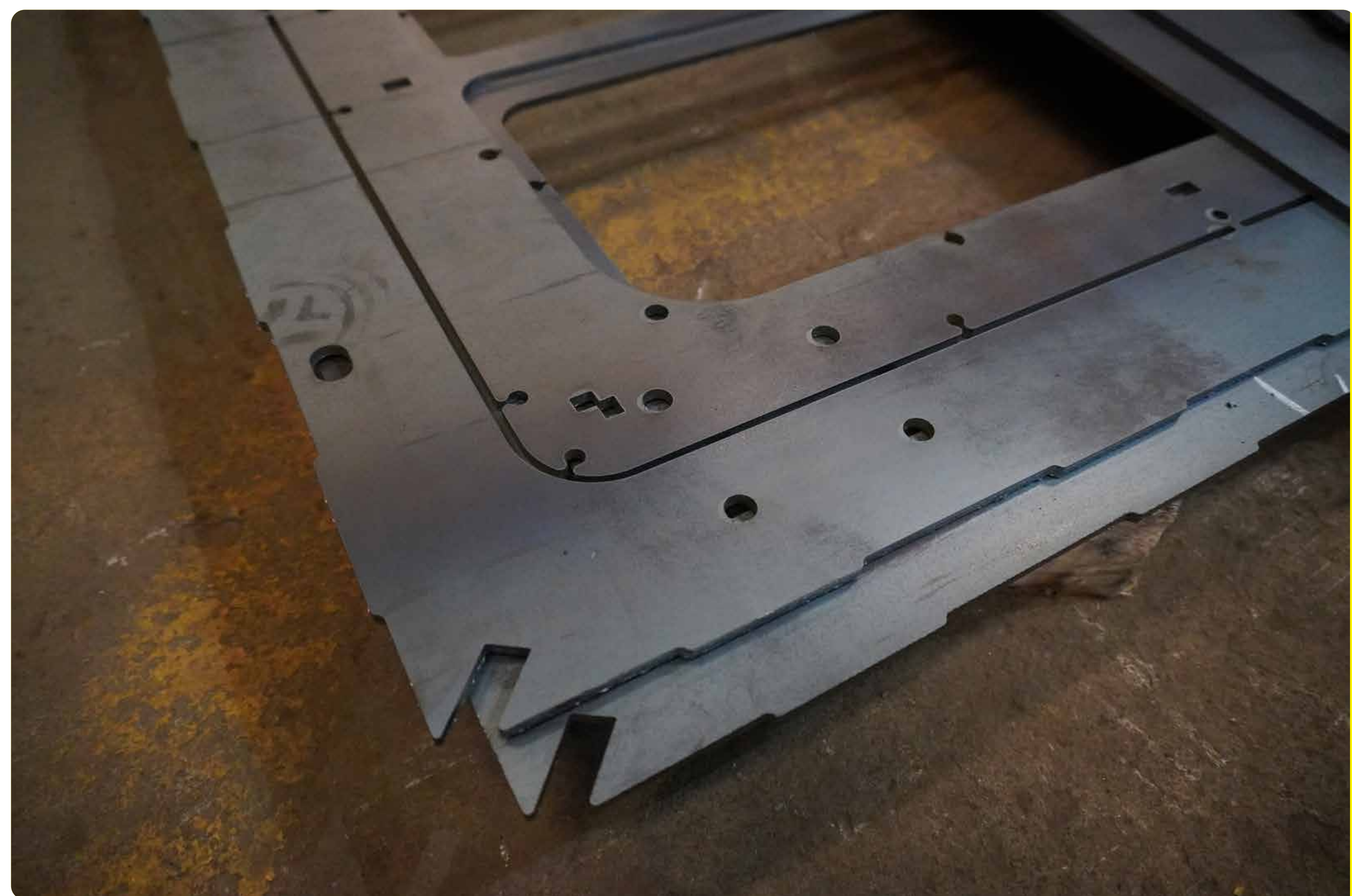
Plasma cutting at SPS Richards Bay



Stock piling in Germiston!



Flame cut, drilled and machined



Laser cutting in Richards Bay