

Thinking about a WIA machine? Read this first.

What the public record says about WIA Machine Tools (formerly Hyundai WIA) as of October 2026

A machine tool is a 20-year purchase. You are also buying the company behind it: parts, service, software and warranty for the life of the machine. Since mid-2025 that company is no longer Hyundai. It is a new, thin-margin firm owned by a private-equity fund, its part-owner is in court over control, and no public source says who builds its lathes.

1 The Hyundai name is gone. A private-equity fund owns it now.

- Hyundai WIA split off its machine-tool division and sold it for ₩340 billion (roughly \$240 million). Since July 2025 it has run on its own as **WIA Machine Tools Corp.**^{1,2}
- The owners are Rylson Private Equity (65.2%) and the machine-tool maker SMEC (34.8%).²
- Private-equity funds buy companies to sell them again. Korean press reported in 2025 that Rylson was already weighing how it will exit, and that SMEC holds first right to negotiate when it does.³ The company that stands behind your machine could change hands again during its working life.

2 Its part-owner is in a court fight for control.

- SNT Group bought into SMEC, became its largest shareholder, and in November 2025 declared it wants a say in running the company.⁴
- 2026 brought several rounds in Changwon District Court: SNT's petitions on the shareholder vote were dismissed in March,^{5,6} SMEC's management won the March 31 vote,⁷ and on August 12 the court upheld SNT's right to inspect SMEC's accounting books.⁴
- On October 7, 2026, SNT told SMEC shareholders it may "fully reconsider" its stance.⁴ The fight is not over.
- SNT has publicly questioned the WIA purchase itself. SMEC's own filings show its WIA stake, bought for ₩113.1 billion, carried at ₩39.3 billion at the end of 2025.⁸

3 It barely makes money.

- WIA's first seven months on its own (June to December 2025): ₩156.9 billion in sales and ₩1.0 billion operating profit, a **0.66% margin**. Overhead used up about 97% of gross profit, and most of the net profit came from currency gains.⁹
- At the end of 2025 it owed ₩322.9 billion against ₩74.3 billion of net assets.⁸
- Korean trade press expects profitability to "take considerable time" to recover.⁹

In fairness: WIA's CEO says first-half 2026 sales rose about 36% and that a cost-cutting team ran into May 2026.¹⁰

4 Nobody says who builds the lathes, or where.

- In 2024 Hyundai WIA sold all the machinery at its Changwon production unit to contract (OEM) builders. Production was contracted out, and its only own production companies were in China.¹¹
- WIA's 2025 audit lists its production machinery at ₩2,000 (under \$2) and no land or buildings.¹² It registered a factory in its own name in Gimhae in July 2026.¹³
- No public source names the company that builds WIA's lathes and vertical turning centers, such as the LV8500, or the country they are built in. If "Korean-built" matters to you or your customer, that is an open question.

5 If you are still quoting WIA, get these answers in writing.

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| ☐ Which company builds this exact machine, in which country? | ☐ A photo of the build plate, and the acceptance test at that plant |
| ☐ Who honors the warranty and parts if WIA is sold again? | ☐ Who services it in New England, and how fast? |
| ☐ Guaranteed parts availability, in years; and who will own WIA in five years? | |

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2. Seoul Economic Daily TV, 2025-07-16.
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3. Seoul Economic Daily, 2025-07-16.
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4. Hankyung, 2026-10-07.
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5. Seoul Economic Daily, 2026-03-17 (case 2026카합10046).
sedaily.com/article/20202466

6. Newspim, 2026-03-24.
newspim.com/news/view/20260324000880

7. Seoul Economic Daily, 2026-03-31.
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8. Bloter, 2026-03-24, from DART filings.
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9. Dealsite, 2026-05-04, from WIA's audit.
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10. Dealsite, CEO interview, 2026-07-27.
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11. Seoul Economic Daily, 2024-07-12.
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12. WIA 2025 audit report, DART 20260331000078.
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13. FactoryOn registry, record 482502026282853.
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