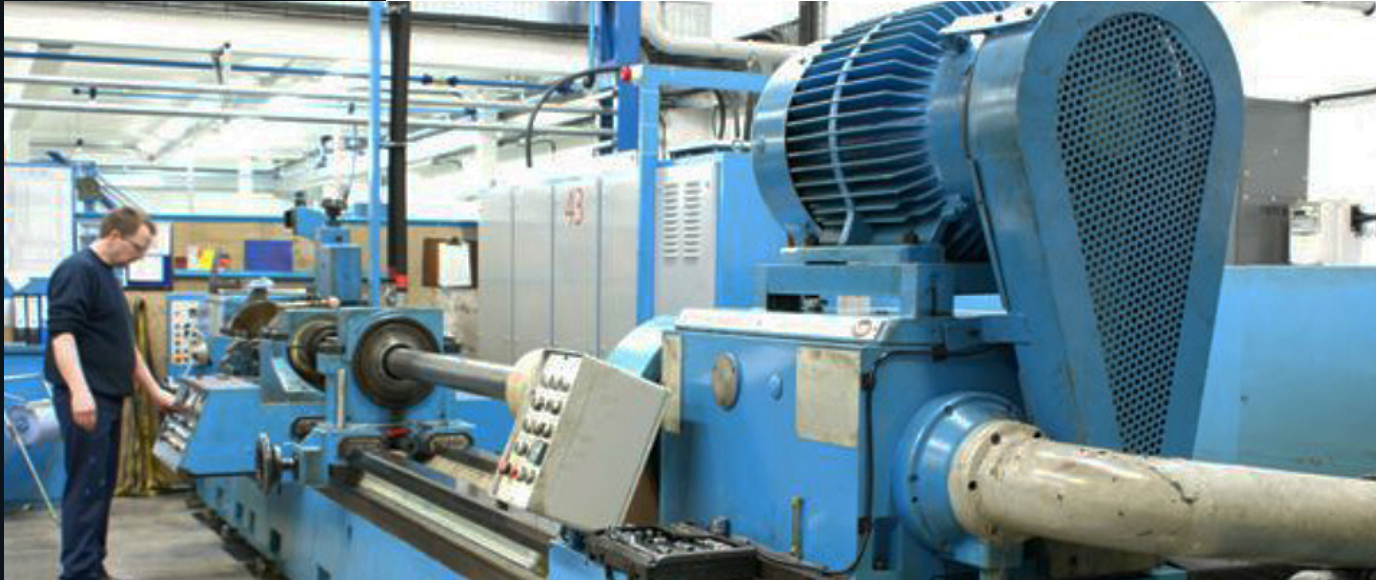




Upgrading and refurbishment programme pays dividends for Hone-All Precision



Upgrading and refurbishing all four of Hone-All Precision Ltd's deep hole borers has resulted in a 20 per cent capacity increase

Hone-All Precision Ltd has competed an extensive upgrading and refurbishment of its four deep hole boring machines to provide an additional 20 per cent production capacity. However, demand for the company's specialist machining expertise, especially from the aerospace and oil & gas sectors, is such that the refurbishment programme had to be spread over several months to ensure the minimum of downtime and avoid any disruption to delivery schedules.

This is a particular priority for the Leighton Buzzard-based specialist sub-contractor as it is working towards Silver level status in the Supply Chains for the 21st Century initiative. Having received its SC21 Bronze level award at the recent Farnborough aerospace show, ISO 9001/AS 9100-accredited Hone-All is now expected under the terms of this aerospace and defence industry supply chain improvement initiative to satisfy a 99.5-99.9 per cent quality performance criteria, a demanding requirement that to date has only been achieved by five SC21 participant companies.

Before refurbishing its largest deep hole boring machine, which now has a completely new headstock, it was necessary to extend the capacity of the next largest machine to maintain Hone-All's overall 3 metre length deep hole boring capability. Since then swarf conveyors have been either upgraded or new swarf conveyors fitted to all four deep hole borers, together

with new drive motors and coolant pumps, and the opportunity has also been taken to fully refurbish an existing Endomatic facing and centering machine.

"It would have been easier to leave things as they were," says Andrea Rodney, co-Director, "but this is not really an option for a business like Hone-All that is committed to improving efficiency and reducing overheads and costs. The positive outcome has been a significant increase in deep hole boring capacity, which is good news for our customers as it will have a very positive impact on lead times. Our next step is to select and install a new CNC horizontal honing machine to provide additional capacity in the honing section as this will eliminate any possibility of a future production bottleneck."

Using specialised drilling heads and indexable tooling to bore holes up to 200 mm diameter, Hone-All can achieve close tolerances (± 0.01 mm for bores under 76.2 mm diameter), excellent accuracy (0.025 mm/25.4 mm depth) and good surface finish - which can be further improved by honing to, typically, 0.05 μ m. General machining capacity, which includes milling, turning, grinding, gundrilling and EDM drilling, extends to components up to 300 mm diameter by 3m long.



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