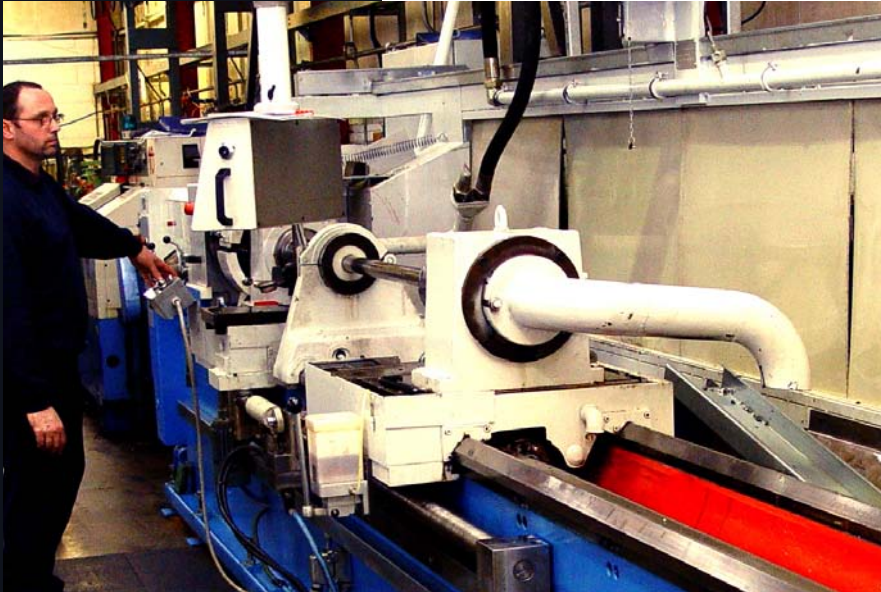




Continuing investment backs up Hone-All Precision's best practice initiative



Hone-All Precision's new Boehringer VDF B3 deep hole borer can machine a 140 mm diameter through hole in 2 m long billets.

Hone-All Precision's drilling, boring and honing expertise underpins an award-winning business that is equipped to respond positively to customers' machining requirements and offers a complete manufacturing service. Typical applications of the company's specialist honing capability include components such as drive shafts, rifle barrels, con rods, hydraulic tubing and compressor cylinders. Sizes range from a minimum bore diameter of 0.5 mm up to a maximum bore diameter of 300 mm machined to tolerances of microns over a maximum overall length of three metres.

Although honing remains a core capability we do provide a full 'one-stop-shop' machining capability," says Andrea Rodney, Director, "and we are increasingly asked to machine exotic and difficult-to-machine materials such as titanium and Inconel. The impact of this increasing demand has been most noticeable in terms of our deep hole boring capability, so although we had plans in place to increase capacity in this section it was necessary to bring the investment forward to avoid extending delivery times to customers.

"Although price and component quality are always factors in a customer's decision to place an order, lead times are increasingly a major consideration. Being committed to improving our delivery performance whenever possible is, we believe, key to staying one step ahead of the competition and it is, therefore, an integral part of our 'best practice' initiative."

Commissioning of a new Boehringer VDF B3 deep hole borer has delivered the additional capacity needed by the Dunstable-based sub-contractor to satisfy the steadily growing demand for its specialist machining skills. The new borer takes billets up to 200 mm diameter and 2 metres long, and is capable of machining a close tolerance 140 mm diameter through hole in materials such as Inconel.

To make room for the new mid-range arrival in its 10,000 sq. ft. premises Hone-All Precision relocated several smaller machines to its satellite operation in nearby Houghton Regis, which specialises in one-offs and small batch work, while at the same time taking the opportunity to adjust the layout of the main machine shop to improve workflow.

The ISO 9001-accredited company's deep hole boring capability also extends to three-metre billet lengths, which matches the capability of the honing and turning sections. Hone-All Precision also offers CNC milling, gun drilling, grinding and EDM drilling, while the recently upgraded quality control and inspection facility houses a Quantum 6104 CNC co-ordinate measuring machine and an impressive array of metrology equipment.



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