



AS9100 highlights Hone-All Precision's commitment to aerospace quality



A selection of components machined by Hone-All Precision Ltd for customers in some very demanding industry sectors.

Suppliers involved in what is often an extended industry supply chain are increasingly aware that accreditation to AS9100, the international aerospace quality standard, is crucially important. This is because AS9100 is an ISO 9001-based standard with additions and interpretations specific to the aerospace industry, and the emphasis is placed on areas deemed to have the greatest impact on safety, reliability and regulatory compliance.

For subcontractor Hone-All Precision Ltd, achieving accreditation to AS9100 is the culmination of, and testament to, 18 months of hard work by every one of the ISO 9001-accredited company's 26-strong workforce. "A conformance rating of 95.5 per cent in our first full system audit confirms that our Quality Management System and our production processes are as robust and high performing as the facilities and team we have created following our recent move and expansion," says Andrea Rodney, Director. "Our quality manager, Wayne Wilson, has worked extremely hard to implement the additional requirements of AS9100, while the British Standards Institution has been very helpful at every stage of the accreditation process. As is always the case here at Hone-All, a team approach has enabled us to further advance with our QMS and the continuous improvement programmes we run alongside it. The next step is SC21 registration, so that potential aerospace customers can be confident of receiving the highest levels of service."

Although aerospace is becoming an increasingly important part of Hone-All's business, the company has over the years attracted loyal customers from other equally demanding industry sectors such as oil and gas, automotive and motor sport. "We offer a one-stop-shop precision machining commitment to all our customers," says Colin Rodney, Managing Director, "while continuing to maintain our specialist skills in honing, gun drilling and deep hole boring. Accreditation to AS9100, too, has a broader relevance in that every customer benefits from the fact that our production processes and quality procedures are managed to the highest possible standard of conformance and verification."

The decision to relocate to a new 20,000 sq. ft. factory was taken and implemented before the economic downturn began. While the timing of the move did initially present some difficulties, it has since provided Hone-All with an ideal environment in which to implement a logical flow of work, from delivery of raw material to shipment of finish machined components, and to address every aspect of quality management. This has proved particularly beneficial in terms of the pistons, valves and sleeves typically machined by Hone-All for aerospace customers. These often need to be gun drilled, for example, to produce the bore detail and weight requirements demanded by the aerospace industry.



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HoneAll

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Multiple staged bores and exceedingly close dimensional and geometrical tolerances are a frequent requirement of this type of work, demanding a high degree of accuracy and precision that the Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, subcontractor takes pride in achieving.

"We have the capability and expertise here to gun drill, hone and finish machine the most complex of aerospace components within our own unique manufacturing facility," says Colin Rodney. "This saves our customers time and money, as well as avoiding the risk of quality control issues, or increased lead times through the involvement of other sub-contractors".

"Hone-All has always been committed to offering the highest levels of quality in the most efficient manner," says Wayne Wilson, Quality Manager. "We may on occasions say how good we are, but achieving AS9100 following a full audit by the world's leading certification body proves there is much more to Hone-All than just subcontract machining. The commitment throughout the company, at every level, has supported us through the challenging accreditation process for AS9100, and will now enable Hone-All to provide a comprehensive subcontract machining service to an even more diverse and demanding customer base."



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