



Environmental improvement in the Aerospace and Defence Supply Chain



Case Study: Turbocam Europe, Fareham, UK



Turbocam Europe, based at Fareham, Hampshire, is part of the US Turbocam Group, a leader in simultaneous 5-axis machining, supplying complex machined prototype and production components to major aerospace, industrial turbomachinery and automotive companies.

At the Fareham site there are nine 5-axis machines milling a range of products in stainless steel, titanium, aluminum, tungsten carbide and brass.

Following a review of its operations, as part of the Aerospace and Defence Sustainability Club, it has embarked on a range of measures to manage its environmental impacts, as well as deliver financial savings.

Chris Widdop, Turbocam's Quality Manager, said:

"Although we are a small business we recognise that there are opportunities to reduce our environmental impact and, at the same time, reduce costs, which is particularly important given recent rises in metal, oil and energy costs.

We have started by implementing a number of 'Quick Wins' as well as identifying the source of emissions.

There has always been a strong emphasis on Quality within Turbocam and we see our drive to better manage environmental issues as a natural extension of our 'Quality' offering"



Energy

Following identification of potential improvements through better energy monitoring, Turbocam has used a data logger to track consumption patterns. Potential savings have also been identified in compressor use while 'quick wins' include switching off PC monitors when not in use and an energy awareness campaign.



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Waste



As well as the improved recycling of cardboard, paper, office and canteen waste, which has, according to Chris Widdop, halved waste going to landfill and therefore reduced landfill tax costs there has been a focus on the reuse of significant quantities of cutting oil.

Following the purchase of a 'spinner' to extract the oil from metal swarf there has been a marked reduction in the amount of waste oil being disposed of, reducing Turbocam's

environmental impact but also reducing costs, of particular importance given the continued rise in the price of oil and commodities.

Chris Widdop stated that:

“The Aerospace and Defence Sustainability Club has enabled us to focus on practical measures to reduce our environmental impact. We now have a better understanding of the environmental risks we face and financial and environmental opportunities available. It has also enabled us to focus our efforts on eventually achieving ISO 14001 accreditation”.



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- ◆ For details of the **Aerospace and Defence Sustainability Club**: www.aerospacerec.co.uk

