



## APPH Nottingham

# Robust sliding-head lathe for aerospace work



*the name in sliding-headstock technology*

The majority of components produced by APPH Nottingham are destined for the aerospace sector, particularly the landing gear that its parent group designs and manufactures.

Many components are mill-turned from stainless steel and titanium bar, so in June 2007, when the company was looking for its first sliding-headstock CNC turning centre, particular attention was paid to the robustness of the machines on offer.

The decision was taken to buy a Star SV-32 nine-axis sliding-head lathe owing to its rigidity and significantly heavier construction than other makes on the market. The high power drive to the live cross-working and end-working tools was another factor in the purchasing decision.

The machine has turret-mounted tooling as well as a gang toolpost and has been equipped with high-pressure coolant delivery for improved chip control and tool life when producing safety-critical components from exotic aerospace metals.

Much of the sliding-head lathe's time is spent on one-hit mill-turning of intricate components to tight tolerances. Formerly, such parts had to visit two, three or even four machines.

Benefits that result from consolidating repeated set-ups on several machines into a single operation include faster turnaround, better component accuracy, and lower costs through reduced operator involvement and less work-in-progress.

*"Even though we were new to sliding-head turning, after one week's training we were able to program and run the Star."*

**Dave Broadfoot**  
Machine Operator  
APPH Nottingham