



Asgard Engineering, Hyde

Fast learning curve in sliding-head technology



Serving the medical and electronics sectors as well as the aerospace, nuclear, food and pharmaceutical industries, Asgard Engineering was established in 2004 and today uses three Star CNC sliding-headstock bar automatics of 16, 20 and 32 mm capacity .

Mill-turned parts are produced to tolerances as tight as 10 microns in most types of stainless steel as well as nickel and titanium alloys, FeNiCo and other specialist alloys.

Owner Ian Hampton's background is in the manufacture of miniature precision components but his expertise was in management rather than production. In fact, while he knew the basics of Swiss-type mill-turning from a previous job, he had no practical experience of operating any type of machine tool.

How different things are today; he and his staff are now highly skilled at programming and operating the sliders. However, in the early days the company was heavily reliant on Star's engineers to program the first jobs and advise over the telephone when Asgard got into difficulty.

The Stars are programmed off-line, but not on a high-end CAM system, so Asgard still requires some on-going help from Star. For example, polar interpolation was needed recently to simplify milling around the contour of a part. Asgard emailed a drawing to Melbourne and the code was sent back straight away to allow the job to be set up quickly.

"Otherwise, there is very little contact with the supplier, as all the Star machines are very reliable," said Mr Hampton.

the name in sales of sliding-head lathes

"The Star SB-16C is an excellent value-for-money, entry-level slider."

**Ian Hampton
Owner
Asgard Engineering**