



Croft Engineering, Alton

Quality up, cost down, using Star slider



A recent convert to CNC sliding-head mill-turning, Hampshire subcontractor Croft Engineering supplies a local electronic equipment manufacturer with connector parts that were previously produced by another contract machinist in the UK to a lower standard on cam automatics.

The parts are now produced within tolerance and at lower cost on Croft's multi-axis Star SR-32J slider, according to Jason Mortara, joint owner of Croft with his parents, Paul and Judy. Furthermore, economic batch size is down to 200-off or less.

A second-hand slider was rejected, as Croft was new to the technology and needed the reassurance of having a comprehensive service package including warranty, cycle time

estimates, programs, training, tooling advice and telephone helpdesk. According to Paul, all have been readily forthcoming from Star GB and the whole experience has been very good.

Star even recommended the finance house, which was able to offer Croft good terms as it is familiar with the higher-than-average residual value of the machines.

Paul commented, "Manufacturers in the UK often do not want to have their components made abroad, but feel that they are forced to by customers demanding ever lower prices. Now there is another option to consider.

"Highly automated, multi-tasking machine tools like the Star are the answer to keeping work in Britain."

the name in sliding-headstock technology

“ There is little money to be made using basic machines - you need advanced production plant like Star sliders. ”

**Paul Mortara
Croft Engineering**