



star
in action...

Pailton Engineering, Coventry

Steering shaft production time slashed by 75 per cent



Steel shafts manufactured by Pailton Engineering, the international steering systems manufacturer, were previously produced in a cell comprising six machine tools – a saw, dedicated facing and centering machine, CNC lathe, spline rolling machine, gear hobber and a machining centre.

Now the shafts are machined almost completely on a Star SV-32 sliding-head, 9-axis turn-milling centre, followed only by the gear hobber.

The latter operation could be completed in-cycle on the Star, but it is more efficient for Pailton to produce the part in two hits in order to balance workflow and maximise utilisation of the slider.

According to operations manager, Neil Foster, valuable savings in cost and time have been achieved in the manufacture of this core product. Lead-time for a complete column assembly can be cut to less than four weeks, including prototyping.

One steering shaft for a major international client is now made in two sections, both ends being completed in one hit on the Star SV-32 instead of on six machines. Monthly batch size is 1000-off.

Floor-to-floor time for one end of the column has been cut from 86 to 20 hours, while the reduction at the other end is 79 hours down to 20.

the name in sliding-headstock technology

“£25,000 saved / year producing 1,000 shafts monthly for major client”

Neil Foster
Operations Manager
Pailton Engineering