



Staffordshire Precision Engineering

Aero parts produced 35% faster



the name in sliding-headstock technology

Manufacture of mill-turned components has become much more profitable at Staffordshire Precision Engineering (SPE), Newcastle-under-Lyme, since the subcontractor invested in a Star SR-20J sliding-head CNC lathe in February 2009.

Joint managing directors, Phil and Gary Smith, say it is partly the result of reducing cycle times on existing components and bringing work in-house that was previously subcontracted.

For example, there has been a 35 per cent saving in the time taken to turn a family of titanium aerospace components. They were previously machined in a longer cycle on a fixed-head CNC lathe. In addition, subsequent operations were needed on a centre lathe to depip and deburr.

Commented Mr Smith, "The savings on this family of parts alone are substantial, as we can produce them in one hit on the Star and achieve a better lead-time."

Even more importantly, the Star lathe gives SPE the opportunity to attract new business that they would not otherwise have won.

The contract that clinched SPE's purchase of the sliding-head lathe was not aerospace-related, but for the manufacture of a medical instrument – a device used in shoulder repair operations.

The quality of the instruments is better than it has ever been. Every part the customer measured fell right in the middle of the 20-micron tolerance band, which was not the case before.

"Contrary to what we previously thought, we find the slider very quick to set up"

**Phil Smith
Joint MD
Staffs Precision**