



**star**  
*in action...*

## Oglesby & Butler, Carlow

# Latest sliders are “phenomenally quicker”



**H**eated hand tool producer, Oglesby & Butler, installed its first Star SR-20 sliding-head lathe at its Carlow factory in the Republic of Ireland in 1993. The machine has worked virtually continuously ever since, yet still holds  $\pm 10$  microns on gas-tight seals.

O&B's engineering director, Michael Griffin, calculates that of the 158,000 hours that the SR-20 could have worked, it actually achieved 150,000 hours – an uptime of 95 per cent.

He said that the original plan was to renew their Star sliders regularly to keep the plant list updated and take full advantage of modern technology. This approach proved unnecessary, however, as the early Stars remain so productive and accurate.

In 2009 and 2010, to cope with increased demand for its core products,

such as soldering irons, O&B bought three additional, modern versions of the SR-20, bringing the total number of Star lathes on site to eight.

Mike Griffin said, "The latest SR-20RIII's mill-turn parts 10 to 15 per cent faster than an SR-20RII we bought in 2008, which in turn was 30 per cent quicker than the original SR-20. The increase in speed has been phenomenal.

"Machine specification has improved steadily over the years in terms of spindle speed, cutting feed rate, rapids, number of tools available and power of the driven stations. Accuracy is better too – we chase a couple of microns on our newer machines for some jobs.

"In addition, the latest RIII models have software in their Fanuc-based controls that automatically optimises each new program after we have written it, before the first batch is run."

*the name in sales of sliding-head lathes*

**"Star lathe still holds microns after 18 years working 24/7, with an uptime of 95%."**

**Michael Griffin**  
Engineering Director  
Oglesby & Butler