



Revamped honing section adds to Hone-All Precision's all-round machining capability



Thin walled components are a particular speciality of Hone-All Precision Ltd.



Hone-All Precision Ltd has invested in two Sunnen horizontal tube honing machines..

Having completed an extensive upgrading and refurbishment of four deep hole boring machines, Hone-All Precision Ltd is now investing more than £200,000 in upgrading its specialist honing capability. This involves revamping part of its 20,000 sq. ft. factory to accommodate two additional honing machines, without disrupting the Leighton Buzzard subcontractor's carefully planned process flow.

The first of the two latest acquisitions to join an existing Sunnen GV3 series vertical honing machine is a 2 metre stroke HTB-2000S PLC horizontal tube honing machine initially supplied by Sunnen Products Ltd on a loan basis. "While waiting on delivery of a new custom-built hone, our plan was to avoid a potential bottleneck resulting from the significant increase in our deep hole boring capability," says Andrea Rodney, Hone-All Precision co-Director. "However, it proved to be a classic case of 'we liked the machine so much, we bought it'."

Hemel Hempstead-based Sunnen, which has seen a steady increase in machine sales this year, offers a comprehensive range of precision honing systems, as well as systems with automated parts loading and in-process or post-process gauging. "Hone-All was fortunate in that we had a machine of a suitable size available for loan and, of course, we always do our best to help our customers," says Julian Hooper, Sunnen's Managing Director. "It made an immediate impact within the customer's honing section and we were very pleased when Hone-All decided on the additional purchase of this smaller honing machine."

This has a touch screen control contributing to step-by-step set-up times of less than two minutes. HTC series machines also feature a unique tool expansion and feed system capable of maintaining close size and surface finish specifications. A major incentive for both investments is the growing demand for 28-employee Hone-All's tight tolerance machining expertise from aerospace and energy sector customers.

Using specialised drilling heads and indexable tooling to bore holes up to 200 mm diameter, Hone-All is able to achieve close tolerances, excellent accuracy and good surface finish - which is then further improved by honing to, typically, 0.05 µm. General machining capacity, which includes milling, turning, grinding, gundrilling and EDM drilling, extends to components up to 300 mm diameter by 3 m long.

"Hone-All has all the skills needed to tackle some very challenging projects, added to which our relocation in 2008 to much larger premises has produced the quality controlled and efficient production environment essential to competing successfully in a technology-driven world," says Colin Rodney, Hone-All Precision's Managing Director. "This latest investment highlights the changes we have made, and the improvements we are continuing to make, as part of a long-term commitment to our customers. We are totally focused on providing a competitive service in terms of the precision machining of high value-added components, especially where this involves difficult-to-machine materials that demand both specialist knowledge and the right equipment."

Installed in June 2011, the second, larger, machine is a 3 metre stroke HTC-3000W CNC horizontal tube hone.



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