

Applications for Plasma Cutting Technology

Industry: Metal service
Equipment: Powermax1650®



Company experiences “amazing results” in performance and cost saving from Powermax1650 upgrade

Hypertherm's Powermax1650 provided Metal Services with:

- 12% increase in sheet metal assembly efficiency.
- Reduction in overtime by approximately 30%.
- Additional production capacity which allowed expanded business capabilities.
- Dramatically improved shop air quality due to reduced smoke.

The company and products

Metal Services Inc., a fabrication and metal service company, provides related services to their sister companies Smithco Engineering and Amercool Manufacturing. The Tulsa, OK based Smithco and Amercool in Whitehouse, TX are premier manufacturers and full service providers of air-cooled heat exchangers to heavy industries such as gas refining, petrochemical and power utilities.

The problem

In today's aggressive business climate, standing on reputation alone is not enough for Smithco. For over 25 years their technologies and procedures have underscored their commitment to excellence, product quality, engineering, service and customer satisfaction. For Metal Services' sister companies to remain competitive in the changing business environment, they needed to improve their metal cutting processes by increasing productivity while lowering operating cost.

The solution

With the aid of their Hypertherm plasma distributor, Metal Services realized that by replacing the two MAX100 plasma systems currently in operation on their CNC tables that substantial savings could be obtained. Consequently, two Powermax1650 air plasma systems were purchased and installed. In response to the upgrade Metal Services management said, “The results have been amazing.”

Benefits

Some of the key areas of improvement were a 12 percent increase in sheet metal assembly efficiency with no other changes to their process. This improvement has been attributed to parts that are more consistently dimensionally correct and cut complete and clean. “With the Powermax1650s, part square has checked within 1/32 of an inch total on over 200 parts that have been measured.”

According to the management team “The most compelling positive result from this retrofit has been a reduction in overtime by approximately 30 percent. This has now added additional capacity to the production facility allowing Metal Services to expand our business capabilities and generate additional revenue opportunities.”

In addition, this installation provided dramatic air quality improvements in the shop due to reduced smoke, creating a more positive environment and increasing productivity.

The improvements in performance and productivity prompted Metal Services to purchase a Powermax600 as well. This unit is used to cut skeletons as well as complete other maintenance tasks originally cut by oxyfuel. Once again, Hypertherm delivers extensive production improvements and lower labor costs.

Management has already decided to make future purchases of Hypertherm plasma cutting systems with the goal of continuing to increase productivity and to reduce costs.

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