

In good hands



To capture and distribute process information from individual elements of its business efficiently, KMF (Precision Sheet Metals) has implemented a handheld system at its Newcastle under Lyme facility.

The results will see greater control and the ability to predict when conditions that could adversely affect quality could potentially occur.

At the heart of the new data capture procedure is Principle Suite software from Applied Principles which works in tandem with handheld data capture units allowing a wealth of information to be collected, from images, process data such as oven temperature and critically signatures from process owners. The data collected creates a 'health

check' for a particular process which is then automatically organised and distributed by email to team leaders and other relevant members of staff. The outcome is that this data encourages rigorous proactive checks that drive consistent process adherence.

The time saved in collecting and disseminating this information will lead to significant gains and encourage greater cooperation between team leaders and quality technicians within the business. The information will also play a valuable role in the company's management system audits with a track of actions taken to close out non-conformities, with sign off from a single authorised person.

The real aim, of course, is to improve quality levels on the precision sheet metal work

produced by the subcontractor and provide greater reassurance to customers that their work is being closely monitored to ensure full compliance with specific quality needs.

"The audit process, once implemented, is owned and managed by the team who are directly responsible for the control of the process," explained Gary Sutton, KMF's quality manager. "This creates much better links between process owners and quality teams who can now focus on reducing variation as opposed to watching what each other does.

"I personally feel that this will become a key improvement tool for KMF in years to come and will change the way we manage quality, maintenance and health and safety. We see this system as a valuable tool for controlling and refining processes such as CNC cutting, powder painting and especially our aerospace and medical manufacturing areas. Eventually it will be expanded to incorporate health and safety process management and preventative maintenance of capital equipment."

KMF (PRECISION SHEET METAL)

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