

Sub-Contract Inspection up by 132%



Customers of Status Metrology Solutions have been asking for many years if we can offer a Sub-Contract Inspection Service. The good news is WE CAN!

Significant investment at our technical centre of 4 dedicated machines has provided a dimensional measurement capability of up to 4.5 metres which more than doubles our capacity.

At early project stages when engineers don't have the time or the capability to measure prototype components but need a detailed ISR (Initial Sample Report), Status are able to offer the support you need in having over 10 years experience in inspection and measurement techniques.

"Our Sub-Contract Inspection Bureau has exceeded target by 132% so far this year! The key to our new found success is our high degree of flexibility to urgently respond at the shortest notice" says Dave Watkins (Applications Manager). He added, "Also, more of our customers are requesting bespoke PC-DMIS package part programs using their CAD and easy to use operator interfaces. This gives the standard user the ability to run multistage advanced programs."

"...however simple or complex we can cope with the demands of the customer"

So if it's a 'One-Off' inspection or a Batch of parts, however simple or complex we can cope with the ever-changing demands of the customer's requirements.

Status Sales Force Expands

Joining the Status Sales team this year is Graeme Gibbons as Sales Area Manager who will cover the South of England.



Graeme has been in the Metrology Industry for over 12 years in sales of new machines for a leading CMM manufacturer. Graeme explained, "The CMM Aftermarket Business is expanding. The demands from customers are increasing all the time. Status is meeting this challenge and I look forward to offering my extensive experience to further the companies potential".

Graeme will be strongly developing our markets, which is enjoying a very positive sales trend. He will be working to maintain the stable promotion of our full range of services including: new Brown & Sharpe CMM's; 2nd User CMM's; Contract Measurement Inspection; Service & Calibration and Brown & Sharpe PMI products.

Technology Partnership produces Collaborative Advantage

For almost 4 years Status Metrology has been the leading Technology Partner for Brown & Sharpe Measuring Systems UK. Together, the partnership believes that having a better knowledge of your own manufacturing processes is the key to improving quality, productivity and the bottom line.



The partnership role is multi functional encompassing:

- Promotion of PCDMIS systems, the No.1 world class software for CMMs.
- Complete support for Non OEM CMMs throughout the UK
- Strengthen activities by risk sharing
- Access new markets and build credible presence

To date, the successful partnership programme has helped to develop and strengthen a mutually profitable business alliance.



Online Result analysis over the Internet



Linpac Automotive, Scunthorpe, were faced with another major new contract and a new problem: *DMIS Dimensional Measurement Result Data Files being sent direct over the Internet to their World Class Car Manufacturer client for analysis approval of their injection moulded parts!

Status Metrology rushed to their aid and recommended the best cost effective option, which was to upgrade their out of date Kemco CMM controls. Using a low cost, new CMM controller running PC-DMIS, provided them with the desired functionality, with full CAD integration. Along with the training a bespoke 'turn-key' part program

package was formulated by Applications Manager - Dave Watkins (and his team) to allow Linpac to load and export Dimensional files to maintain their good relationship with their client.

All this was achieved in less than three weeks!

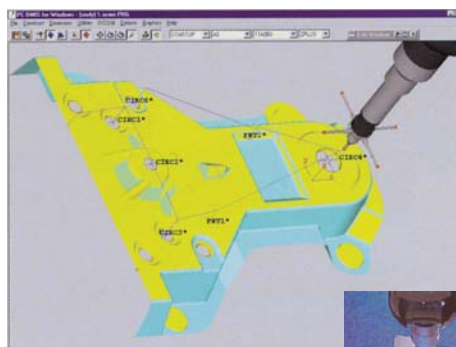
Linpac CMM Coordinator - Richard Bowers said, "we were 'under the cosh' due to minimum time constraints, but with the swift professionalism and flexibility of Status Metrology we were able to satisfy our customers deadlines and secure future contracts."

Another 1st Tier Supplier Solved

A Newport first Tier supplier faced with a brand new facility, with new personnel, a new product and a draining purse still in dire need for modern CMM technology, called upon Status Metrology to help. They purchased a retrofitted off the peg Status machine from our showroom in Nottingham fitted with PC-DMIS, which was fully operational, calibrated and personnel trained to suit their tight deadlines. All this in less than a month of the first customer contact.



CATIA direct CAD interfacing - GKN Auto-structures



Quality Control in the manufacturing process has always been the driving force at GKN Autostructures of Telford. To emphasize their commitment, major investment were made into ensuring that no errors are transferred when incorporating CATIA CAD files during automatic component measurement. By upgrading their CMM equipment to the latest PC-DMIS software and controls, the CATIA CAD model is accessed DIRECT, which eliminates any translation errors often found in file conversions such as IGES, VDA-FS, STEP and DXF.



When the operator initiates a part program, the PC-DMIS CMM system checks through the network as to whether the CAD model has been updated since last being accessed. If there has been a change in the model design, the user is requested to either download a new copy or to ignore the change, thereafter measurement will take place. Later versions of the PC-DMIS software system will be capable of full GD&T capabilities.

Continuing their 12-year partnership with GKN (the UK's largest pressed auto parts manufacturer) has resulted in new CMM supply, Retrofits & Upgrades through to complete 'all parts breakdown maintenance cover'. "The relationship with Status Metrology is important to GKN, as they are a principle provider of complete solutions in the optimisation and support of co-ordinate measurement technology - Mike Robinson, Quality Manager, GKN".

Major Supplier to Aerospace Industry Upgrades 10 CMM's



Flight Refuelling Ltd, a division of COBHAM Plc Company, has placed orders in excess of £100k to upgrade all their CMMs located at the Wimborne plant.

"Because of the variety of components manufactured at Wimborne, our various quality personnel demand wide ranging metrology applications covering: high precision prismatic measurement, reverse engineering, scanning, CAD, SPC and Offline Part

Programming. Therefore, when we were evaluating the marketplace we were looking for an all-encompassing 'one system' product to satisfy our current and future needs". commented Steve Bedford - QC Leader.

"Historically FR Ltd had purchased a number of CMMs from a variety of manufacturers, and we decided that an ideal vision was to have a common machine controller and a common software platform which we predicted would provide the solutions we sought:

- Less investment in CMM software Training & Re Training (also cover for holidays/sickness)
- Full Site CMM utilization by Interchanging of Programs and Operators on all CMMs
- Selective use of CMMs to suit Production demands
- Less disruption due to Service/Calibration downtime
- A Common Inspection Methodology can be applied within a factory & the Supplier Chain.

Steve continued: "Our investment into the PC-DMIS CMM software and control system was made over major competitors because of its unique simple to use 'feature orientated inspection' as well as its all-encompassing application capabilities."

Having been involved for over 20 years in the service and calibration of these machines, Status Metrology was selected because of their experience, knowledge and business partnership with FR Ltd. A scheduled programme of upgrades timed to minimize any disruption to the on-going production workload of Flight Refuelling was carried out on time.

Key Aerospace 1st Tier Supplier Upgrades 2 CMM's

A key supplier to the UK Aerospace industry, AIM Ltd based in Clevedon in the South-West, have ordered two PC-DMIS systems to be retrofitted onto their existing CMM's. New project work from their major customer requested fully CAD oriented manufacture and inspection. This led AIM to examine their automated inspection equipment and invest into an upgrade route, taking advantage of the technology available and to stay ahead of their competitors.

Status had been supporting AIM Ltd over a number of years and after subsequent demonstrations at their Technical Centre in Nottingham, PC-DMIS was selected to satisfy AIM Ltd, on all counts.





Understanding ISO 10360-2 Performance Standard

In brief, a performance verification of a CMM to ISO 10360-2 causes one or more probing systems to be assessed with over 100 linear measurements being checked. The results are compared with the machine's stated performance. If this is not available one can be calculated from the results of the test.

When verification is carried out by a UKAS accredited laboratory, a UKAS certificate stating the volumetric capability and probe performance is issued.

ISO 10360-2 covers only linear performance. Where a CMM user measures angle and form characteristics as well as length, the performance verification will need to be enhanced with checks made on calibrated angle and form standards.



These Good Practice Guides are available for £25 each. Please contact Status for details.

It has been determined that the value and confidence that is provided by performance verification to ISO 10360-2 far outweighs the costs.

UKAS accreditation for CMMs covers the practical capability of staff carrying out the verification as well as the support structure. Thus, quality systems assessors, making an examination of a company seeking to gain or maintain quality assurance to ISO 9000 series of standards, can accept the traceability of measurements made on a CMM evidenced by a UKAS certificate.

Assessors faced with a certificate from a non-accredited organisation have to make a judgement of the validity of the test and the traceability of the equipment used.

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