

PGI Expands Capabilities with Yama Seiki VMB-1600 CNC Machining Center

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"Our mission is to be a 'one stop shop' steel processing plant with the most dedicated and productive work force," said Miles Cunningham, CEO of Precision Grinding, Inc. "PGI adheres to the following principles: excellent safety record, excellent EE benefits, quality work and work environment and a solid reputation built on timely deliveries and competitive pricing."

PGI's most recent challenges have come from the need to update older equipment to improve overall quality and productivity. "Many of our existing customers' needs for more complex machining have driven the investment in new equipment," said Cunningham. "PGI was also looking for smaller mid-range size capacity to compliment our larger CNC capabilities. The workload capacity range of 30 x 30 x 60 inches was targeted."

"The most important considerations to meet this challenge were for a new CNC vertical machining center with Fanuc controls," Cunningham said. "Consistency with the controls was important for standardization of operations. The software programming, size and setup for the new CNC were critical in the decision. The addition of a Renishaw probing attachment for inspection was also very important."

"C&S Machine Tool Systems had been visiting with the machine shop staff and management of PGI during the machine selection process," said Chris von Seebach of C&S Machine Tool Systems. "Service and support are critical components of any machine purchase and PGI will rely on the machine tool builder's distributor for those services. C&S has been selling and servicing machine tools in the Southeast for over 12 years. Our reputation for honesty and customer care are important aspects to PGI when selecting a partner in their business."

"After looking at various CNC machining centers available and the options on each, the new Yama Seiki VMB-1600 CNC Machining Center from C&S Machine Tool Systems was selected for a variety of reasons," Cunningham said. "The speed, accuracy and quality of the part produced is exceptional. The machine has box-way construction and a two-speed gearbox with no pulley directly coupled to the spindle. The new CNC included all necessary



(l-r) Andrew Cunningham, Jerry Quinn and Miles Cunningham of Precision Grinding, Inc. with the new Yama Seiki VMB-1600 CNC.



Plate cutting with beveling capabilities.



Stress relieving/annealing in PGI's 40,000 lb. capacity furnace.

options with the chip conveyor, coolant thru spindle and loaded control with high-speed machining capacity. The 30-position tool changer was an added bonus. The new CNC with magnetic workholding has improved in-process time from 30 to 60 percent."

The Yama Seiki VBM-1600 features a 6,000 RPM two-speed gearbox with 416 ft-lbs torque and 30 HP spindle motor, CAT 50 Taper, 63-inch X-axis, 31.5-inch Y-axis, 31.5-inch Z-axis, Fanuc alpha i servo motors on all axes, 300 PSI coolant thru spindle, chip wash, oil skimmer, chip conveyor and augers inside machine.

"As a result of purchasing and using the new Yama Seiki VMB-1600 CNC Machining Center, PGI has much better quality and productivity, and we have reduced inspection time," Cunningham said. "All of these improvements have led to quicker deliveries and more satisfied customers."

For more information contact:

Jerry Quinn
Precision Grinding, Inc.
2101 Wenonah-Oxmoor Road
Birmingham, AL 35211
888-934-7463
205-942-2491
Fax: 205-942-2073
mail@precisiongrinding.com
www.precisiongrinding.com



PGI's QC department performs complete inspection of all machined parts.



Lansing of thick plate in PGI's plate cutting department.



PGI's 415 HP Mattison 400-S vertical spindle surface grinder with 48" x 200" capacity.



Machining part on PGI's new Yama Seiki VMB-1600 CNC.



Blanchard grinding with 129-inch swing capacity.