CASE STUDY

QUALITY TAKING FLIGHT AND GAINING NEW VISIBILITY AT GLOBAL JET ENGINE PART SUPPLIER

OVERVIEW: Top jet engine part supplier gains traceability and significant cost containment from QDA SPC solution.

CHALLENGE: To gain full traceability of quality across the plant to reduce errors and eliminate waste.

SOLUTION: Implement QDA (Quality Data Analysis) SPC solution to achieve error-free real-time traceability to quality issues.

RESULT: Dramatically increased speed and accuracy of data collection, reduced rework and scrap, and gained real time reporting capabilities enabling immediate corrective action on 'out of spec' issues.

CHALLENGE | Data Collection and Traceability

When a global leader in lightweight metals engineering and manufacturing assessed their data collection methods for quality measurement, they desired a more seamless approach to ensuring the integrity and traceability of their data. Collected data was being captured and hand recorded on paper documents by the operators. Due to company regulations, quality data records must be kept for 50 years for reference. The issues the company faced were if data was being recorded, if potential recording errors were occurring and how storage and paperwork retrieval would be effective for 50 years. In addition to concerns about data integrity and reliability, keeping track of the data and ensuring meaningful results was extremely difficult and any data analysis and reporting was near impossible.

Each part costs the organization $7,000 USD and typical monthly scrap cost was well over $200,000 per month; their current practices did not provide the capabilities needed to drive cost containment, reduce waste and provide root cause traceability.

SOLUTION | QDA SPC

The client implemented the QDA SPC solution into one of the company's turbine plants. The implementation itself was seamless and the company was able to continue production with very little interruption. The QDA SPC system integrated with the manufacturer's existing gaging system enabling rapid operator adoption without additional need for learning new procedures or processes.

Knowing each measurement in the production process in real time allowed operators to be held accountable for data under unified plant standards. At each station, operators no longer had to look at one value at a time and manually record the results. Instead with the device-compatible software, they could monitor full sets of automatically collected data. Detailed tracking at each station ensured that defective parts were immediately identified rather than forwarded to the next step in the production process.

RESULT | Accurate Data Collection, Traceability and Significant Cost Containment

By implementing QDA SPC, the company now has the rigor and visibility it needs to reduce the scrap, rework, storage and administrative costs. The success of this one plant will result in a multiplier effect as the company plans to expand the QDA SPC solution to 40 stations to eliminate manual data entry and benefit from significant cost containment.

With detailed, real-time information of its production process, the company has additional opportunities in supplementing the SPC software with additional QDA modules to enhance gage and tool management, to identify and prevent defects and to improve manufacturing efficiency.

QDA SOLUTIONS

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