



ROEMHELD

[Deutsch](#)
[Français](#)
[Español](#)
[Italiano](#)

LATEST NEWS

Home

Events

Case Histories

RIC CD-ROM

Brochures

Distributors

Contact us

Site map

CAREERS
opportunities

2007 SEMINARS
click here to register

GRIPPING NEWS
e-newsletter

Subscribe below

Email:

Name:

go

ROEMHELD UK LTD

Registered address:

Moulton Park

Buisness Centre, Redhouse
Road,

Moulton Park,
Northampton
NN3 6AQ.

T: +44 (0)1604 497665

F: +44 (0)1604 497648

VAT no: 426659427

Company registration no:

1941520

Place of registration:

Bedford

[<< Back](#)

CNC SPEEDWELL DRIVES VOLUME MANUFACTURING SUCCESS IN MIDLANDS



A Midlands-based company is currently bucking the trend by competing successfully in the world's volume manufacturing market for truck and automotive components. Managing Director of CNC Speedwell, Mark Lewis, puts their success down to a commitment to investment, an excellent workforce and a hands-on, shop floor approach that has helped them develop strong business relationships with eight leading OEMs.

Consistently a Grade A supplier to leading truck and automotive companies around the world, CNC Speedwell has grown from a machine shop turning over £120,000 per annum in 1991, to a company that employs over 160 people with an annual turnover of £15 million in 2005. The company, now CNC Castings plc, is committed to delivering quality products on time and operates a

year investment cycle on machine tools in a constant drive to improve productivity and operating efficiency.

In a bid to maximise ROI and simplify processes, CNC Speedwell only uses four different types of machines and keeps set-ups as standard as possible for speed of use and ease of training. As part of this standardisation, CNC Speedwell now uses Roemheld components on virtually all its machines. The company is also committed to hydraulic fixturing as it offers the tolerances, set-up times, quality and reliability CNC Speedwell needs. Roemheld has been supplying vertical and hydraulic fixturing components to CNC Speedwell for the past three years through its distributor, AC Hydraulics. CNC Speedwell uses the Roemheld components for intricate fixturing as they offer the repeatability and durability that such high volume manufacturing demands.

CNC Speedwell Managing Director, Mark Lewis, commented: "Roemheld products are extremely robust and reliable. As iron produces high levels of graphite dust and silt, our machining centres need higher maintenance than they would if they were purely manufacturing aluminium. We have found the Roemheld double acting clamps particularly useful in this respect."

Commonality of parts is also important as the company undertakes all its own maintenance. Using Roemheld components removes the need to hold large amounts of spare parts as its distributor, AC Hydraulics, holds them in stock offering CNC Speedwell the lead times it requires for 24 hour a day manufacturing.

CNC Speedwell manufactures over 400 different types of components for the truck and automotive markets. The company offers a 'cradle to grave' service as it can cast, machine, paint, assemble and then deliver the parts anywhere in the world. The company machines 400 tons of parts every week, of which 80% are destined for the export market. CNC Speedwell ships 24 hours a day and is one of a handful of UK manufacturing companies competing in the worldwide truck and automotive volume manufacturing market. From its Brownhills base, 5 miles opposite the Group's foundry, the company anticipates that this export business will expand by 30% over the next five months alone.

Mark puts the success of his company down to the commitment of his workforce and the company's ethos of investing in productivity gains. CNC Speedwell has invested over £27million in its machining business, with £5 million in 2005/6 alone on new equipment. However, Mark insists it is not just about throwing money at the business, it is about constantly looking at how improvements can be made. Two machining centres and five lathes handling seven jobs were replaced with a twin spindle machine with autoloading which freed up a third of the space previously being used and enabled the redeployment of four operators. The company has also invested in Chiron machines so that double spindle machines now make up 65% of its machining capability, which has resulted in a 75% productivity gain, and Mark is now looking at sourcing four spindle machines.

The company also invests in training and customer service. All of the managers have come from the shopfloor and there is no such thing as 'not my job'. Mark and his managers are just as likely to be found repairing a machine that has broken down as sitting in their office doing paperwork. It is this hands-on approach and teamwork that Mark believes gives the company the edge: "We take on customers' problems, not only will we help them design fixtures and come up with manufacturing solutions, everyone in the company will go the extra mile to provide a service. A recent example involved us pulling out the stops to machine a couple of very urgent parts for a customer in 48 hours over a weekend, which actually won us a contract of over £1 million per annum."

Against an uncertain UK manufacturing climate, CNC Speedwell continues to remain a success story. The cor currently has eleven new machines on order and expects to be operating an extra 900 hours machining capa week four of 2007. Mark Lewis said: "We are proof that the UK can compete with low cost manufacturing pla abroad, it is simply about working smarter, investing in people and technology and delivering the right produ the right time with the right level of service."

