

Bronco Manufacturing Captures New Precision Machining Business with Kitamura Machining Centers

*Customer demands for more intricate machining capabilities drives decision to add
Kitamura horizontal and 5-axis units to floor*

Wheeling, Ill., October XX, 2008 – For most of its nearly 30-year history, Bronco Manufacturing of Anna, Texas had a comfortable niche producing simple machined parts where high volume was the main consideration. As its business in the aerospace, defense and medical fields grew, however, the company increasingly found itself being asked to go beyond its comfort zone by its customers and produce parts with more intricate geometries and tighter tolerances.

Realizing these requests represented both a risk (if the customer found a supplier that could deliver on both types of work) and a growth opportunity, Bronco Manufacturing began looking into machining centers that could perform the high-precision work while also helping with its core high-productivity jobs. A recommendation from former Bronco Manufacturing employee Gary Tipton, who now works for equipment supplier [Campat](#), led them to machining centers from [Kitamura](#) Machinery.

“Gary knows our operation very well,” said Sammy Adams, plant superintendent at Bronco Manufacturing. “He knows the machinery we already have, how the shop floor is set up, how jobs are scheduled, and most of all the level of quality we expect. When he showed us the Kitamura machining centers we knew they had just what we needed.”

Bronco Manufacturing began by adding a single Kitamura Machinery [Mycenter horizontal machining center](#) to the shop floor. The horizontal configuration provides a true fourth axis for precision machining while also making it easier to manufacture

certain types of parts. The company now has five of those units as well as a Mytrunnion 5-axis machine.

“The machines are very user-friendly,” Adams said. “Their Kitamura-FANUC controls are very compatible with our shop and the way we work. Their ease of use allows us to move operators seamlessly from machine to machine, helping us maintain production schedules while delivering high quality parts that meet the close tolerances our customers require.”

The construction of the machines is another plus. Adams says every component on the machines is high quality, which provides the precision and stability required for the type of work they’re doing now. Use of proven techniques such as solid boxway construction, hand-scraping of all mating surfaces, and geared spindles rather than direct drive spindles all contribute to superior results. These techniques also allow the Kitamura machines to produce parts at a rate of 50:1 versus the older machines on the floor.

The six Kitamura machines are being kept busy with an influx of new business, particularly in medical devices. Bronco Manufacturing is using the 5-axis machine to build components for heart pumps used to keep patients alive during open heart surgery for one of its customers. The horizontal machines are primarily used to make components for machines that test blood for pregnancy, AIDS and other issues as well as an array of parts for other lab equipment. In addition, Bronco Manufacturing has increased the amount of work it is producing for the military as well – work it was unable to bid on prior to the acquisition of the Kitamura machinery.

“We have booked every machine for every hour we possibly can for the next three months,” Adams said. “In this uncertain economy that’s a great feeling. We’re definitely seeing a rapid return on our investment.”

About Kitamura Machinery

Founded in 1933, Kitamura Machinery is dedicated to building the most technically advanced horizontal, vertical and 5-axis machining centers in the world. Kitamura machining centers are known and respected for their no-compromises precision and extended floor life even under the most demanding conditions. With its U.S. Corporate Headquarters located in Wheeling, Illinois, Kitamura provides its products to a diverse customer base worldwide. For more information please visit www.kitamura-machinery.com or contact us at 1-847-520-7755.

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