

Minster Presses Earn Respect at Midwest

Accuracy, dependability and a commitment to timely service has produced some Minster believers at Midwest Tool and Die in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Founded in 1974, Midwest Tool and Die has experienced considerable growth and success thanks to its ability to design, build and run progressive high speed dies all within one facility while emphasizing service and quality.

President Victor Felger said the company's primary customers are in the automotive industry with some electronic customers as well. Dies designed and built by Midwest Tool and Die typically run at 1,000 strokes a minute.

Until recently, Midwest Tool and Die's list of high speed presses did not include any Minster presses, and when the company purchased its first Minster Pulsar press a few

years ago, there was some apprehension.

"Some of our customers were concerned when we were putting in the Minster presses," Felger said. "But when the presses showed what they could do, there was no more concern.

"Customers primarily use us to develop new prototypes and perform some of the initial runs," Felger added. "We've been using Minsters to develop product and parts, and they have made a good impact on our customers because we've run good parts on the Minster presses."

The Minster presses have also made a positive impression on the employees of Midwest Tool and Die.

"The Minster Pulsars have the ability to hit tools lighter and it's a more even hit," said tool maker



Quality is a top priority at Midwest Tool and Die.



Minster Pulsar 30 ton presses are handling some of the high volume stamping jobs at Midwest Tool and Die.

Gary Jackson. "The are very consistent machines."

"They are consistent right out of the shoot in the morning and all day long," added Bill Brown, a tool setter for Midwest Tool and Die.

The consistent operation of the Minster presses helps contribute to the accuracies of the parts, which is critical to Midwest Tool and Die's high quality operation.

"I've been impressed with the accuracy of the presses," Plant Supervisor Louie Sherrill said. "We run those Minster presses 20 hours a day with easy set-up, consistent shutheight and consistent speed."

Midwest Tool and Die is continuing to develop its "Vision Systems" on the Pulsar presses. The system provides several



Corporation's manufacturing facility in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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it in here and have it do the job. But when we need service or assistance, Minster has responded very well to my needs.

"We can't shut down here, or we would be shutting down car lines," Felger continued. "We have to have support and Minster has been taking care of us."

"As a company we've been growing," Sherrill concluded. "We're running more volume, and we have to continue to offer the same high quality service and product to our customers. The bottom line is we brought the Minsters in here and they've done the job."

different dimensional looks for part inspection at up to 1,000 stokes per minute. If a problem is detected, the press is shut down.

"What we're shooting for is 100 percent on-line inspection," Felger said.

With a lot of short runs and prototype work, the Pulsar's ease-of-operation features are especially useful at Midwest Tool and Die.

"The way the press was constructed is very helpful for us," Jackson said. "It allows us to get in there and work on the tooling -- from one end of the tool to the other."

"And the three-inch drop-away bolster is a big plus," Brown added.

But for Felger, the most critical attribute of the Minster presses is the service backing up the equipment.

"The service is as important to me as anything," he said. "We can buy just about any machinery and bring



Minster TR2-15 presses handle some of the lighter high speed jobs at Midwest Tool and Die.