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PREFAG – a specialist in precision and micromechanical assemblies – relies on measurement technology from HOMMEL ETAMIC

PREFAG Carl Rivoir GmbH & Co. KG manufactures precision turned parts and assemblies. At its site in Walzbachtal, Germany, the company produces up to 80 million complex machined parts per year in five production halls equipped with approximately 250 production machines. With around 270 employees, PREFAG supplies the automotive, medical technology, aerospace, rail vehicles, marine, and sensor industries. The specialist in precision mechanical and micromechanical assemblies is part of the MSM Group (MAGNET-SCHULTZ GmbH & Co. KG).

The Challenge

The turned and stamped parts industry is gradually transitioning to GPS-based dimensional measurement – including a major customer of PREFAG. For this customer PREFAG produces high-precision turned parts. The investment in measurement technology was intended to reduce the time required for measurement in production. For PREFAG, the goal of the collaboration with HOMMEL ETAMIC, a company of the Jenoptik Group, was also to reduce scrap and ensure process reliability.



The Solution

PREFAG decided to purchase an Opticline C308 with a T3D probe arm. This machine combines optical and tactile measurement technologies, thereby ensuring the quality of production for precision and micromechanical turned parts.

The new GPS dimensioning is already integrated into the software. This allows the turned parts to be measured both completely and precisely in a single pass.



The Opticline was installed right next to the production line, where it is used independently by the machine operators. The measurement programs for this are provided by employees from the quality assurance department.

The Result

PREFAG's goal was not only to optimize quality but also to reduce measurement time. "Our motto is: short distances, fast measurements," says Christoph Eichner, PREFAG's quality management representative. "Using the Opticline C308 as a measurement station on the production floor eliminates the need to travel to the measurement room, which is located in a different hall, and also provides machine operators with immediate measurement results, so they no longer have to wait a long time for the results from a 3D measuring machine."



This allows the processing machine to be corrected immediately if tolerances are exceeded or fallen short of, which significantly reduces the scrap rate.

Even when switching from one workpiece to the next, existing programs can be called up, and the measuring machine is immediately ready for use again. This has significantly increased flexibility and process reliability.

The Evaluation

"The transition to our new measurement strategy was a resounding success thanks to the support of HOMMEL ETAMIC. The Jenoptik Group is the global market leader in optical shaft measurement technology. For GPS-based measurement, the combination of tactile measurement technology and a simple programming interface offers an excellent alternative to a coordinate measuring machine. The Opticline's measurement accuracy and repeatability are impressive.

Working with the team, especially the sales, application, and service departments, is a pleasure. We benefit from their customer-focused approach, extensive metrology expertise, quick response times, and excellent support, and we feel like a key account. Highly recommended!"

Christoph Eichner, Quality Management Representative PREFAG Carl Rivoir GmbH & Co. KG