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Total Quality Solutions

Case Study: Industrial Pump Manufacturer

This global manufacturer produces oil, water, fuel and transfer pumps for the automotive and agricultural industries. Manufacturing tolerances are critical because of the subsequent assembly process.

The Challenge

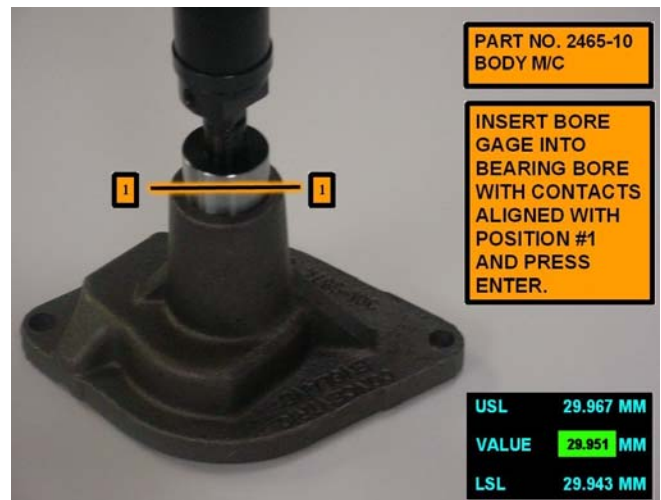
This manufacturer experienced problems with measuring parts due to slow response times from their previous gage suppliers. Because this caused operator downtime, alternative methods were employed to ensure that parts were gaged to part print specifications. These methods included changes in plant layout which resulted in a loss of productivity. The company was also burdened with high service and repair costs, which resulted in an increased inventory of electronic and mechanical components necessary to maintain the gaging equipment. They needed a robust solution that provided commonality of operation to overcome all of these problems.

The Quantum Software Solution

The solution was to implement a networked system consisting of the ASI DataMyte Quantum Software Suite. Quantum SPC/DC software was installed on factory-floor workstations interfacing to Solartron Metrology Orbital Network PCI Cards. Each gage was retrofitted with a Solartron Digital probe with the gaging stations networked to a MS SQL Server Relational Database. A typical bench has five or more different gages interfaced for different inspection checks. Graphical gaging aids were created using a digital camera to show the operators where and how to inspect the parts, reducing training efforts. Work instructions can also be displayed. The solution was implemented in two days without any loss of production.

Benefits

By using one common system, this manufacturer was able to reduce training requirements and the need for additional spare parts, thus significantly reducing maintenance costs. The up time of the gaging benches is now 100%. Maintenance due to mechanical wear is required, but this task is now being handled by the manufacturer, resulting in no loss of productivity. More importantly, the manufacturer now can statistically analyze each gage bench from the quality office using data from the Quantum relational database. Quantum Data Analysis and Reporting software provides the reporting tools needed to react to process variations before scrap is produced.



Quantum DC screen shot graphic including a box showing spec limits and actual indicated values. Colors change from black to red, yellow or green depending on part status.

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