



## PRECISION METAL & AEROSPACE, LLC

### Certifies to ISO 9001:2015 With The Help of Consulting Firm BMSC



A1 Precision Metal & Aerospace just celebrated their 1-year anniversary. They already manufacture products for a publicly traded global aerospace/ defense company. Wait, there is more... They just certified to ISO 9001: 2015.

This just doesn't happen.

A1 did just that. And though the company is very new, co-owner Jack Terrell began learning the fabrication trade before he had even graduated from kindergarten. Sadly, Jack's mother had passed away while her children were quite young. Jack's sisters were school age, and Jack's dad didn't have a place to take him while he worked.

And so 5-year-old Jack swept floors for his father's shop, soon learning to cut metal for the shop's dozen or so employees. When his dad sold the business to another fabrication shop more than 2 decades later, Jack says, "I was in my 20s, just not ready to take over a business."

Over the course of the next 3 decades, Jack worked for a number of fabrication companies, mostly small shops. His last employer, though, for 9 years, was a large company, Ducommun Inc. (NYSE:DCO).

Ducommun had plans to move its shop from Arizona to Arkansas, but still wanted many of their parts precision fabricated in Arizona. Jack says, "My boss came to me and offered me the opportunity to purchase the assets of Ducommun's fabrication facility, with a plan for my new company to make parts for them."

Jack went home to his wife Shelley to discuss the opportunity. Shelley says, "This wasn't in our plans. I worked in the medical industry and knew little about fabrication, and quite honestly, we hadn't put aside money to purchase a business."

Plans change, particularly when an exciting opportunity like this comes along. Shelley and Jack made the decision to move forward. Their new company, named A1, would launch as a Woman-Owned precision fabrication entity. They additionally made the decision that Shelley would leave the health care industry to become an integral team member in the start-up.

The fact that they had their first customer in Jack's previous employer made things easier than a typical start-up would experience, but given that their customer was an aerospace/defense contractor, the Terrell's knew that they would have to get certified very quickly if they wanted to retain their customer's business.

Shelley says, "One of our customers highly recommended Debbie Hart and Bretta Kelly, owner of BMSC, to prepare us for certification. We contacted Bretta, and immediately hired her as our consultant." She adds, "When we first met Debbie and Bretta, there was no question in our minds that they would be the best consultants for our young company."

Less than 12 months after opening their business, A1, which offers precision fabricated parts holding tolerances of .005, was certified to ISO 9001: 2015. Through the process, they also became AS9100 Revision D compliant, with plans soon to achieve AS9100 certification.

About the thought of certifying, Shelley says, "I was terrified, a nervous wreck. But after meeting and talking with Bretta Kelly and her associate Debbie Hart, we began to feel more comfortable."

During the months the team at A1 worked towards certification with BMSC, Shelley says, "It was amazing. Bretta and Debbie are so knowledgeable and professional. They also had a way of making us feel more confident and comfortable as we went through the process."



She adds, "We certified with 0 findings! When Bretta and Debbie left before our final certification, I thought I would cry. I knew I would miss working with them as I had over the past months. I would absolutely recommend BMSC to anybody!"

Jack says, "The equipment we acquired through Ducommun is outstanding – we do high tolerance precision metal fabrication with superior quality, and this includes metal stamping in high volumes (1 to 1000 parts). Additionally, we can bend any metal with high tolerances, and our Amada press brake and Mitsubishi laser with dual beds lets us support high production and long parts." He adds that A1 works routinely with stainless steel, aluminum, cold roll, copper and brass. "You will find our lead times of typically < 4 weeks to be attractive", Shelley adds.

A1 Precision Metal & Aerospace, LLC is a woman-owned, advanced metal fabrication manufacturer, delivering high-quality custom sheet metal fabrication service. To learn more about this ISO 9001: 2015 carried company, contact them at (623) 670-3406 or visit [A1pma.com](http://A1pma.com)

Are you ready to implement a new ISO 9001:2015 or AS9100D / ISO 9001:2015 System or simplify your current Quality Management System? BMSC owner Bretta Kelly has 20 plus years' experience implementing and auditing quality management systems for commercial and aerospace companies. Call (602) 445-9400 or visit [BusinessMSC.com](http://BusinessMSC.com) to learn more.