



SOUTHWEST WATERJET AND LASER



SOUTHWEST WATERJET & LASER Certifies To ISO 9001:2015



Southwest Waterjet & Laser is pleased to announce that it has just certified to the newest ISO standard – ISO9001:2015! The company is celebrating 9 years in business this year, and it continues to grow year over year.

The company, owned by Mike and Debra Gudín, started as a waterjet company in 2007, and today it owns 4 Omax waterjet machines, including its newest acquisition, the 5 axis A-Jet®. 3 years ago, Mike made the decision to add new capabilities for their customers, and they purchased a Trumpf 4000 Watt Trulaser. Mike says, “Waterjet cutting is the right process for many applications (thick stainless and aluminum, and if the material is better produced without heat), but there are times when laser cutting is a better, more cost effective solution. With the addition of our Trumpf Trulaser, we can help make the best machining decision for our customers’ parts.” Once the company added laser capabilities, they renamed

themselves ‘Southwest Waterjet & Laser’.

Though by necessity, growth over the past years has meant regularly adding new employees, the core team, which includes Mike’s 3 sons, and the core team each has an average of a nearly a decade in the industry.

The newest waterjet, the Omax A-Jet, allows SWWJ & Laser to cut up to 59 degree angles, and Mike says it has expanded the number of parts they can waterjet for their current customers, and it has allowed the company to take on new customers.



“Our customer requirements have driven each of our machine tool purchases”, Mike says, “and today we are operating all machines on 2 shifts, and often with weekend staffing.” He continued, “In our quest to continue to take the company to the next level, we made the decision last year to pursue ISO certification.”

Mike had received calls from consultants over the years who offered to



support his company's efforts to achieve ISO certification, but when it came time to make the step, Mike contacted Bretta Kelly, owner of BMSC. "I have seen her for years in the A2Z Manufacturing magazine, and I always see the write-ups on customers who have utilized her services." He added, "I also liked the fact that BMSC was local." After a phone discussion with Bretta late last year, Mike made the decision to certify with Bretta and BMSC.



Bretta and her colleague Debbie Hart interviewed every member of the SWWJ & Laser team to fully understand how each individual performed their jobs. Mike says, "Once she did her evaluation, Bretta told us we were 90% there in terms of the processes we would need for our ultimate certification." And though all 17+ employees were at times involved in the ISO certification process, there was a core team of 4 that led the task. Mauricio Renovato, Quality Manager, says, "Our experience with BMSC, and with Bretta, was outstanding. We found her to be straight forward, and she always explained the new terminology of ISO in layman's terms. She worked within our processes, strengthening what we did well, rather than trying to change us."



The SWWJ & Laser team just achieved their ISO9001:2015 certification in May. They implemented their system to the Aerospace Standard and are compliant to AS9100C for their aerospace clients. When asked how it will change their business, the team all agreed that the formal

documentation will lead to increased accountability for each and every employee. Mike adds, "It will allow the company to run smoother, and provide even better service to our customers."

Aaron Herrera, employee since the company opened, says, "I am so proud to be a part of this company – to be a member of a team that has grown like we have. It feels very good to continue to set better and better standards, and to take the steps to be a better and better supplier to our customers. It takes a lot to strive for continuous improvement, and we are doing that here at SWWJ & Laser."

Mauricio says, "You won't hear 'That's not my job' from anyone in this company. We cut such a variety of materials, including titanium and aluminum, but also more exotic materials like granite and we've even cut meteorite rocks that are used by an artist to make jewelry." And while their waterjet tables allow for parts as large as 6' x 13', with a 'We will do what it takes' attitude and a little creativity, the company has successfully cut parts as large as 20'.



"We make parts on time, and we do what we say we will do", Matt Smith says. Here are just a few examples of what SWWJ & Laser's customers have to say about them...

"These are the best waterjet parts we have ever seen!"

"You guys always do a great job!"

"The aluminum panels you waterjet cut look great! We just wanted to thank you for the great work!"

"Parts were inspected and passed with flying colors! Awesome job"

"The quantities, materials and quality I picked up yesterday are great! Thank you for working through that rough spot for me!"

To learn more about SWWJ & Laser, and how they can help you with your waterjet and laser requirements, as an ISO 9001:2015 company, contact them at 480-306-7748 or visit swwj-laser.com

To learn more about how BMSC can help you to achieve ISO and AS9100 certification, contact them at 602-445-9400 or visit BusinessMSC.com