

Multi-Cell Processes to One & Done Systems



Introduction

For nearly 40 years, Classic Turning has provided its customers with high-quality, precision machined components. They have grown their 2-locations in Jackson, MI, to more than 75,000 sq. ft., and just over 150 employees.

Most of their customers are in the aerospace industry, so Classic Turning always strives for continuous improvement and the newest technology to provide high-quality parts at competitive rates.

New Technology— 9 Months of Research

A few years ago, Classic Turning decided it needed to find a new partner for its manufacturing equipment. “It was time for us to upgrade our equipment, and we wanted to find a new provider. We were inundated with work, and we wanted to take our multi-process cells to multi-axis machines that could do the part in one operation,” said Rick Meyer, Vice President of Manufacturing.

Rick continued, “It was important to us that we get it right the first time, so we did a ton of homework, researching the best solution for over nine months. After looking at many brands, Eurotech’s multi-axis machines became a front runner. So, we reached out to our local Eurotech distributor, Merrifield Machinery Solutions, Inc.”

Steve Skuras, Eurotech Product Manager at Merrifield Machinery, scheduled a meeting with the team at Classic Turning. “Dan Meehan, Vice President of Merrifield Machinery, and Pat Cochren, an engineer for Eurotech, also attended the meeting. First, we answered all their questions. Then, Pat completed several time studies for them. I think, most importantly, we shared with them Eurotech’s users’ book that shows many case studies of real customers and their experiences with Eurotech. Next, we gave them numbers of local Eurotech customers so they could talk to them. Finally, we took them to meet a customer in Chicago,” said Steve.

“Product support was important to us,” Rick stated, “so the fact that the machine would be supported and serviced locally by Merrifield Machinery and we would have engineering support from Eurotech, as well as US-based parts supply, all were key factors in our decision. Steve gave us a list of Eurotech customers across the country. We called many of them, and they all had only positive things to say about Eurotech; even the competitors we talked to had good things to say about Eurotech!” Rick exclaimed.

“Being able to visit the customers in Chicago, talk to them about the machines, and see the machines in operation on the floor is what finally sold us on the Eurotech machine,” said Rick.

To show Eurotech’s level of commitment, Steve Skuras reached out to Eurotech’s CEO, Joe Selway (during Joe’s vacation), and asked Joe to call Rick. Joe was happy to help the team and immediately called Rick to answer any questions he had.



L to R: Steve Skuras & Dan Meehan, Merrifield Machinery; Dave Bristow & Rick Meyer, Classic Turning; Shane Jacobson, Eurotech

The Solution & Launch

A large majority of the parts Classic Turning makes are for the aerospace industry, including connector fittings and valves. Each of these parts has one thing in common — precision parts that require tight tolerances. Eurotech time studies showed they could make the parts in one operation up to three times faster depending on the components.

“Eurotech was a perfect fit for Classic Turning,” said Roy Selway, VP of Eurotech. “We cater to a select group of business owners, and our goal is to grow with and help them achieve their goals. So we were thrilled to have them join the Eurotech family. Their first order was for a Multipla B446 T3Y3 (triple turret) with TOP X-File bar feeders and all accessory items to run unattended.” Roy continued, “It was not but two weeks later when they ordered another Multipla as well as the Trofeo (double turret) machines,” continued Roy.

“We had just completed a new 25,000 square foot addition, and the three Eurotechs were the first machines installed,” said Rick. “Shane Jacobson, Eurotech’s Senior Field Engineer, was at our facility for a week. He installed and set up the machines, gave us training, and helped us launch our first part.”

Rick continued, “To run unattended, the machines were set up with MP 1000 psi high-pressure systems, mist extractors, TOP Automation bar feeders, Royal quick change collet systems, and parts carousel.”

“Since the initial week of setup and training, Classic Turning has run 100% of its parts independently. Our operators very much like the controls of the machine. Our seasoned operators quickly adapted to the Eurotech machines and frequently say they are a breeze to operate. The learning curve was not nearly as steep as we had anticipated,” stated Rick.

“The Multipla has been the most profitable machine in our entire business. It produces more profit than any machining cell in our facility,” boasted Rick.

“The Eurotech machines hold such incredible tolerances and have performed so well that we started moving a lot

more of our work from other cells to the Eurotech machines. The cycle time savings and superior quality just made it the logical choice.”



1 OF 4 EUROTECH MACHINES INSTALLED IN CLASSIC TURNING’S NEW ADDITION.

“The Eurotech Multipla produced more profit than any machining cell in our three facilities.”

Rick continues, “Our engineers are working on the part and get three tools in-the-cut at all times. We are also running lights out, and this is where the extra productivity is coming in. At first, we planned on aluminum, and had not actually planned on running titanium. However, we’re also now running titanium parts with the set up unmanned for multiple hours which we are thrilled about.”

Five months after installing their first three machines, Classic Turning took delivery of their fourth Eurotech — another Multipla (triple turret)!

“Thanks to the Eurotech team, we have made some new customers extremely happy. We believe we will have a long-lasting, win-win relationship with Eurotech,” concluded Eurotech customer, Rick Meyer.



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EUROTECH

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Classic Turning provides quick turnaround of complex parts using the latest equipment and technology.

Their manufacturing engineering and CNC machining expertise serves many industries including aerospace and is capable of supplying parts complete with all special in-house metal finishing operations.