

Staying focused

SUCCESS IN MANUFACTURING is doing what you know best and farming out the rest, says Brian Hagmayer, president of Adron Tool Corp. in Menomonee Falls, Wis. He should know; his shop has focused exclusively on providing wire-EDM work for over 25 years.

▶ The production team at Adron has logged more hours of actual running-time experience than most other contract shops in the country. Each of shop's 50 or so wire EDMs logs an average of over 70 hr of cutting time per week.



◀ As both ISO 9001:2000 and AS 9100 registered, Adron has a process control that includes ISO auditors and employees dedicated to quality and production control.



◀ At Adron, typical EDM production jobs, where parts are stacked and cut in strips, often involve quantities of 10,000 to 30,000 parts strung together, nested, and held by a small tab or web. Such a stack of parts might run for 10 to 14 hr.



◀ Adron works 24/7 with expert operators on hand at all times running the shop's high-speed EDMs.

For rush jobs, Adron programs machines, cuts a sample part, and sends it to the customer in less than 12 hr.



◀ This 9,600-lb mold fits easily on Adron's largest Mitsubishi EDM. The advantage of EDMing the part is that it preserves the core material for the cavity or another job. For extremely thick parts, the shop modified a Mitsubishi bridge machine by increasing its height 10 in.



▲ This 38-in.-thick part illustrates Adron's "no-limits" philosophy and its capability to accomplish jobs that other shops would consider impossible.



◀ Typical parts Adron produces are for such industries as aerospace, electronics, medical, energy, and automotive.



◀ Planning is crucial for the 300 to 400 jobs running each month at Adron. Production scheduling starts on Monday for jobs that may run on the weekend. To effectively use each machine and operator, the shop may move jobs from one machine, or group of machines, to another. While Adron may only have two people working on a Saturday, every machine in the shop is running.