

THE FED'S GIFT TO TAXPAYERS: CHEAPER GASKETS

Recently the government purchased a 55100 to help maintain a fleet of aircraft used to visit the nation's airports and perform safety inspections. Which part of the government maintains these aircraft? If I told you, they would have to kill me. Well, not really, but the federal government is ethically bound not to endorse or promote a particular product, or provide glowing testimonials. However, it is remarkable to note, just as one example, how much money they are currently saving by fabricating their own gaskets to meet maintenance demands.

At one time, fabricating any component was a lengthy and expensive process for the Fed. With the help of the 55100, this is no longer the case. The Fed has tapped into the flexibility and efficiency of the JetMachining Center "workhorse" to realize a significant spike in productivity that has translated into a substantial savings of taxpayer dollars.

By creating their own bleed air and high temperature piper gaskets instead of using high priced outside contractors, the government has experienced a reduction in costs that seems almost miraculous. Previously the cost to create a gasket was 150 dollars including the price of labor. It now costs a mere 0.18 per finished part.

In order to make the best purchase decision possible, the government conducted extensive research on waterjet technology, and found OMAX to be a strong candidate for their operations. The efficiency of the OMAX in speed, precision and cost savings factored heavily into their decision to purchase a 55100, as did the high prices required by other vendors to upgrade their controller software. Unlike their competitors, OMAX offers software upgrades and unlimited seats for the life of the machine.

By the 3rd day of owning the 55100, the government mechanics were already well versed in the machine's operation, making parts, simple maintenance and troubleshooting. The opportunity to receive free software was key when it came to training. Each prospective machine operator was able to take the software home and practice on their own computers, freeing up the newly acquired 55100 to begin cutting immediately.

According to a government official who spoke under condition of anonymity, the OMAX is "a huge productivity enhancement tool."