



CMM Case Study 10/2019

Company: I&G Engineering Ltd

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Axiom too



Within the picturesque surroundings of Ystalyfera in the Upper Swansea Valley, overlooking the River Tawe, lies CNC precision engineering specialists, I&G Engineering Ltd.

Since 1976, I&G have built a reputation based upon high-quality workmanship and superior customer service, proven out by long-standing customers and repeat work.

For over 40 years, continued growth and expansion has been fuelled through a program of investment in machinery, technology and in the investment of people. With the company awarded the Investors in People accreditation, due to its support and commitment to training, I&G run a successful and comprehensive apprentice program, presenting young would-be engineers with real world, hands-on engineering experience.

A one-stop subcontract shop, happy to handle any machining project, I&G regularly take on engineering work for wide and diverse sectors of industry including Aerospace, Medical and Food and Beverage and work with a variety of materials, from stainless steel and aluminium, to titanium and plastics.

Proudly accredited to ISO9001:2015 and with customers expecting the highest quality parts and components, through strict control processes, I&G strive to produce absolute quality. However, due to an increased workload and the need to speed-up throughput, quality and inspection was singled-out as an area that would benefit from further efficiencies.

I&G's engineering director, Michael Evans, explains: "There was a clear need to provide customers with faster more accurate results. When customers visited us and we mentioned we were looking into getting a CMM, they stressed the importance of this technology."

At a time when state-of-the-art measurement capabilities have become a necessity rather than an optional inspection method, Michael said: "If a customer visits your website and sees that you don't have a CMM, there's a good chance they'd question how parts are being measured, brush you off and move onto the next company."

Aided by an Innovation Grant from the Welsh government, I&G started a search into the many Coordinate Measuring Machines available on the market. Michael continues: "We had some contact with Aberlink a few years ago, but it wasn't really the right time for us to invest in the technology. We had looked at other available CMMs, but Aberlink were very competitively priced and have got a good name for themselves. Numerous engineering companies surrounding us seemed to favour Aberlink CMMs."

Sold as a complete inspection solution, I&G placed an order for an advanced Axiom too CNC CMM with large 640x1500x500mm measurement volume and fully motorised probe head. Now installed in a dedicated inspection area, the company are already benefitting from the speed that the Axiom CNC CMM offers.

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Michael explains: “We produce anything from 1-offs to thousands of parts and so the reason we chose the CNC model of the Axiom too is to allow multiple setups on the CMM for carrying out repeat work. The operator can simply pick a measurement program, put the parts on and leave them to be fully inspected. This is freeing people to do other tasks. In addition, we also purchased Aberlink’s Programming from CAD software module with the Axiom too, which has given us the ability to program straight from a CAD model.”

“The Axiom too is saving us so much time on inspection and the CMM’s overall ease of use has resulted in rapid and enhanced quality control for all of our customers.”

Designed and manufactured by Aberlink, the largest UK owned Coordinate Measuring Machine manufacturer, the Axiom too is the complete inspection system, a turnkey solution to meet the most demanding measurement requirements.

The Axiom too range of CMMs consists of capacities from 640x600x500mm up to 640x1500x500mm and is available either with manual or CNC control. Not only the easiest to use, a major benefit of Aberlink CMMs is just how affordable they are. Aberlink are proud to be the only major metrology manufacturer to supply machines with zero annual software maintenance contracts or subscriptions and, free software updates for the life of the machine. All of this means that the cost of ownership is very low and the shortest return on your investment is possible.

**About Aberlink**

The largest UK owned CMM manufacturer, Aberlink’s comprehensive range includes 40 variants of both CNC and manual CMM. Aberlink CMMs enable the precise measurement of the smallest of components, to parts of over 3 metres long and up to 6 tonnes in weight. Customers can select from a wide range of probing and non-contact measurement options and on-machine fixturing. The company’s wide range of available solutions allows Aberlink to offer high quality CMMs and vision measuring systems to suit all applications and budgets.

Based in Eastcombe, Gloucestershire, Aberlink has established a global reputation for its metrology products which are innovative, easy-to-use and competitively priced.

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