

# Blue Streak grinding inc.

## Expert Grinding... And Now ISO:9001/ AS9100 Revision C Certified

Blue Streak Grinding has been doing aerospace grade grinding since 1998 when the company was spun off from Aimco Precision. Rob Sniegowski, quality manager and brother to owner Mike Sniegowski, says, "Aimco owners Sam and Maxine Jones owned the company and continued to grow their machining capabilities. They were squeezing our grinding operations out, and so Mike asked Sam if he would sell the grinding business. That is how Blue Streak Grinding started."

Matt Sniegowski, Mike's son and general manager for the business, says, "Mike picked this name for our company because back when Sam and Maxine owned it, we did work for Boeing. They had a division called

'Blue Streak', and it was chartered with moving hot critical jobs through their machine shop with speed and accuracy. Mike liked this name and the concept behind it."

To Rob and Matt's knowledge, they are the only ISO: 9001 /AS9100 certified pure grinding shop in Arizona. The company is renowned for its capability to perform grinding operations on difficult jobs, exotic materials and tight tolerances. And I would imagine you wouldn't find many grinding shops with as many years of experience in precision grinding as you will find at Blue Streak Grinding. Grinding is a trade best done by journeyman machinists. At Blue Streak Grinding, the team of 15 has more than 300 combined years of experience in grinding, and half of the team came from Aimco Precision, so they've been with Blue Streak Grinding for 16 years now. Matt says, "We are often nearly the last operation in making an aerospace part. Typically, only testing happens after we finish our grinding operations. An aerospace part can have a cost

of \$20,000 and we absolutely cannot make a mistake. Our customers continue to rely on us because our quality is 99.8% and last year, we maintained this while performing grinding operations on 155,000 parts.

Blue Streak Grinding's customer base is highly aggregated in Arizona, but they also do work for customers in California, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, on the east coast of the United States, and they even have a customer in Great Britain. They perform OD, ID, CNC, and Centerless grinding on parts as small as .016" to as large as 24" in diameter.

They can grind projects ranging from one-piece research and development projects to high production quantities.

While Blue Streak's customers require their suppliers to be ISO: 9001 /AS9100 certified, for many years they allowed Blue Streak Grinding to do work for them without the certification. Matt says, "We were very fortunate to be an approved supplier to many of the largest aerospace companies even though we didn't have the certification." He continued, "It did mean that we went through a number of audits conducted individually by our customers at our facility."

Rob says, "That changed last year when our largest customer told us we wouldn't be able to grind their parts unless we achieved certification. We grind rotating components that go into Rolls Royce engines for this customer."

Rob and the Blue Streak Grinding team interviewed a few ISO consultants. Rob says, "Bretta Kelly from BMSC just told us everything we wanted to hear from a consultant. We didn't want a quality system that would grow our paperwork, and Bretta



and Debbie Hart, her colleague, assured us that this would not be the case." It wasn't as Blue Streak Grinding reduced their quality manual from about 6 inches to 1 inch today. Rob says the more extensive paperwork that occurred prior to their certification was 'one off audit' paperwork for individual customers.

Matt says that since the company certified, he expects that less of his customers will still require their own audits. He says that the certification process was relatively easy, and they completed it in just a few months, because they already had all the systems in place to meet their aerospace clients' requirements. "Bretta and Debbie made us much more confident in our ability to pass the certification audit, and they were outstanding to work with", Rob says.

To learn more about Blue Streak Grinding, a superior precision grinding company, now ISO: 9001 / AS9100 certified company, call them at 602-353-8088 or visit their website at [bluestreakgrinding.com](http://bluestreakgrinding.com).



If you are seeking consulting to prepare for ISO/AS9100 certification, contact BMSC's Bretta Kelly at 602-445-9400 or visit [businessmsc.com](http://businessmsc.com).