



Your Precision Machining and Complete Fabrication Shop Announces Certification To ISO 9001 : 2015!



McFarland Machine & Engineering, co-owned by brothers Craig and Tim McFarland, is pleased to announce that it recently certified to ISO 9001: 2015. This is the latest revision of the ISO standards. McFarland is also compliant to AS9100 Rev. C Aerospace Standard.

You will have a difficult time finding a small manufacturing entity that offers as many capabilities as you will find at McFarland Machine & Engineering. The company is expert in precision fabrication, machining, welding, waterjet cutting, Blanchard grinding, and their equipment includes 22 mills and 10 lathes (all CNC), 2 lasers, a waterjet, a complete welding department, press brakes, CMM inspection equipment, a CNC turret punch press, as well as Blanchard, surface and O/D grinding machines. The McFarland brothers say that their business is divided nearly evenly (50/50) across machining and fabrication, and they estimate that a majority of their customers (~60%) utilize their shop for both capabilities.

Craig and Tim started the company more than 15 years ago, and the two have a combined ~60 years of machining and fabrication experience, heavily in the aerospace industry. Craig says, "Since we opened for business, we have never seen a down year. Even during the recession which started in 2008, we were busy manufacturing parts for the defense industry."

The McFarland brothers believe strongly in funding new capital investments through the business profits. Tim says, "We own all of our machines outright, and we just finalized the contract where we purchased our 2 buildings, totaling ~26,000 square footage in space. We expect to have the buildings paid off in a 5 year period."

While McFarland Machine just completed its ISO 9001: 2015 certification recently as well as compliance to AS9100 Rev. C, the company has long been graded by some of its larger customers — and the company is consistently rated 'A+' on its quality and on-time delivery.

In just the past year, McFarland Machine & Engineering has increased its machinery performance and automation. Craig says, "We moved to multi-axis lathe capabilities, and just purchased our Amada FO 3015NT 4000-watt laser. The Amada FO 3015NT 4000-watt laser allows us to work faster on our customers' projects. In concert with our AmadaAMS-3015 Laser Shuttle System™, we have greatly reduced our lead times



and improved our product quality. Utilizing the latest in beam conservation, the F0315NT has a clean, precise cut powered by its proprietary cooling and oxygen removal system." Tim added, "Where previously with our laser equipment, we could cut 58" per minute, we can now cut 148" per minute." Both Tim and Craig say that not only has the new laser improved their productivity through automation, it also allows for a better quality finish on the end products. McFarland's latest technology acquisition also increased their ability to cut much thicker materials — from previously 5/16" to now 3/4".





Quick turnaround is something the McFarland Machine Company continuously strives for, and today the company typically turns a product around in 2 weeks from receipt of order. Tim says, “Our investment in new machine tool technology enables us to keep these aggressive lead-times for our customers.”

While the McFarland brothers favor Japanese machines, they are not tied to any one particular builder. Tim says, “We have Matsuura, Mori Seiki, Amada, and Okuma machines in our portfolio, and our largest vertical mill offers customers capacity up to 33”y x 85”x 30”z.

Any machine shop owner knows that key to consistent quality is retention of employees. McFarland Machine & Engineering employs a team of approximately 24, and Tim says several employees have been with the company since its first year in business. Craig says, “We know that excellent benefits are critical to our employees’ well being, and we offer a 401K program where we match employees contributions to maximum allowable limits. We also offer medical insurance and tuition reimbursement for our employees.”

A great work environment has to include teamwork and camaraderie, and the McFarland brothers, who are avid fishermen, involve their employees in the sport either with fishing trips or in their frequently scheduled ‘Fish Fry’ luncheons. Customers too are invited to the delicious ‘McFarland Fish Fry’ events.

Craig says that no one customer pushed the company to certify to the ISO 9001 standard – it is just one of the things the owners have wanted to do for some time. Late last year, they engaged with RevAZ, a program of the Arizona Commerce Authority. Tim says, “Lauri Larson of RevAZ was key to our decision to pursue certification.”

To prepare for ISO certification, McFarland Machine utilized consultant BMSC, owned by Bretta Kelly. Tim says, “Bretta and her colleague Debbie Hart were outstanding. They were easy to work with, and they helped simplify the process.” Craig added, “Both Tim and I are not just owners, we also run machines, which makes it hard to dedicate a substantial amount of any one day to the ISO certification process — BMSC was exceptional at allowing us to work the ISO process at a pace that worked for our business.”

McFarland Machine successfully passed the audit to become ISO 9001: 2015 recently, and they passed with flying colors – no minors and no majors!

Both Craig and Tim say that the certification will help them in so many ways. For one, Craig says, “Larger companies will work with us because of our traceability and our processes in place – it’s like a college degree for a new degreed individual seeking employment – it shows you took the time to take yourself or your business to the next level.” The two also agree it is helping internal operations dramatically – and it is giving them a better understanding of profitability, including their scrap rates, on-time delivery, and employee performance, just to name a few. Craig says, “I think ISO certification will actually flow down to our bottom line very quickly.”

For an extremely financially stable manufacturing entity, with both fabrication and machining capabilities, and one who demonstrates willingness to continuously invest in technology to improve their operations, and now ISO 9001: 2015 certified and AS9100 Rev C compliant, contact McFarland Machine at 480-966-1388 or visit McFarlandMachine.com

To learn more about how ISO/AS9100 certification can help your business, contact BMSC at BusinessMSC.com or call (602) 445-9400.

