

• RE-IMAGINE • RE-ENGINEER • RE-PURPOSE

Taking The Next Step With AS9100 Certification With The Help Of BMSC



Marsh Aviation isn't your typical manufacturing company. They don't make thousands of components – or even hundreds. In fact, with their latest customer

win, Marsh Aviation is building a quantity of four, and it will take 6 years to complete the project! Their customer is a U.S. allied military, and they are revitalizing four retired U.S. military aircraft, basically stripping them down, and rebuilding/modernizing them with all new components.

Unlike new aircraft manufacturers, Marsh conversions do away with the extensive development costs of a new airframe and offer customers an exceptional upgraded product at a very cost-effective price. Chuck Stanford, Jr., President and CEO of the company, says, "Typically our customers can expect to pay a fraction of the price of a new aircraft."

Marsh Aviation opened for business more than a half century ago, in the 1960s, operating a fleet of aircraft for crop dusting. While busily focused on crop dusting, the company was by necessity doing its own aircraft maintenance and upgrades. The rest is history!

Today Marsh Aviation offers their customers several options:

- A completely rebuilt aircraft
- New components for a rebuilt aircraft, kitted for their customer who does the final assembly
- "One off" aircraft components or tooling replacing aircraft parts that are either nonfunctional or are just being rebuilt with modern capabilities

The company operates in its 18,000 square foot production, hangar, and office facility on nearly four acres with flight line access at the Falcon Field airport in Mesa. The building is fully equipped for welding, electrical, engine maintenance, pneumatics, and a full machine shop with multi-axis CNC machining capabilities. Marsh's projects span the globe. Some have included:

- Marsh/Grumman C-1/S-2T – Various configurations of the "Turbo Tracker", including modification, upgrades/kits, and ongoing engineering/parts support including 24 Marsh S-2F3AT air tankers for CAL FIRE
- Lockheed C-130 – Installation of a removable Marsh Constant-flow Aerial Retardant Delivery System (CARDS) and follow-on modification for oil dispersant and/or spray operations
- Marsh/North American OV-10A+/D/G "Bronco" and "Super Bronco"

– Complete airframe overhaul, electrical and avionics systems and safety armor upgrades, airborne chemical dispersant system design and installation

- KC-2 (C-1A) – for the Brazilian Navy – Complete airframe overhaul, Honeywell TPE331 power plants, high-performance props, modern "glass" avionics, APU, OBOGS, HUMS, electrical upgrades, mechanical systems, and mission equipment including an Aerial Refueling System

The team at Marsh Aviation had talked about certifying to one of a few key standards over the years. Chuck says,

"We were looking at NADCAP, ISO 9001, AS9100 and FAA. In the end, it was a potential customer who required AS9100 certification that drove our decision." He continued, "And we had less than 2 months to complete it."

Chuck and other key management team members Stan Shaw, Brandon Lammers and Benno Kuipers contacted a number of peers in the industry for recommendations on AS9100 consultants. Chuck says, "Bretta Kelly, owner of BMSC, came up over and over again. Anyone you talked to, in fact, recommended BMSC."

Stan says, "Bretta and her colleague Debbie Hart first came to our company to begin the AS9100 process in early February. On March 29th, we received our email confirming that we had successfully certified. It was nothing short of a whirlwind 41 days."

Chuck says, "Bretta and Debbie were a treat to work with, and they made the whole process bearable." He continued, "From our company, Brandon and Stan were the key drivers, though the entire company participated."

Stan says, "It is easy to overcomplicate your processes as you prepare for AS9100 certification. Bretta's templates and years of experience in helping companies to achieve certification are built around simplification."

Brandon adds, "We couldn't have achieved AS9100 certification in 41 days without the help of Bretta and Debbie."

Marsh Aviation is a small, specialized aircraft manufacturer. "Everybody wears many hats", Chuck says, "And we think this makes our company very special. At Marsh Aviation, we are always looking for superior A&P mechanics, machinists, and engineers to join our team."

To learn more about how Marsh Aviation, an AS9100 Rev. D certified company, can help you with your aircraft projects, contact them at 480.832.3770 or visit MarshAviation.com

To learn more about how BMSC can help you to achieve ISO and/or AS9100 certification, contact Bretta Kelly at 602.445.9400 or visit BusinessMSC.com

