



In Its Pursuit of Continuous Improvement, Peterson Machining Prepares For AS9100 Revision D Certification



Peterson Machining truly believes in continuous improvement. The company, approaching its 3rd decade in business, is pleased to announce that it is certifying to AS9100 Revision D.

Ronda Peterson, co-owner with husband Todd Peterson, says, “We certified to ISO 9001:2008 5 years ago. We were coming up to our next full audit, and we knew that we would have to certify to the latest ISO standard, ISO 9001:2015. We made the decision that rather than just re-certify to ISO, we would take the additional step to certify to AS9100 Revision D.”

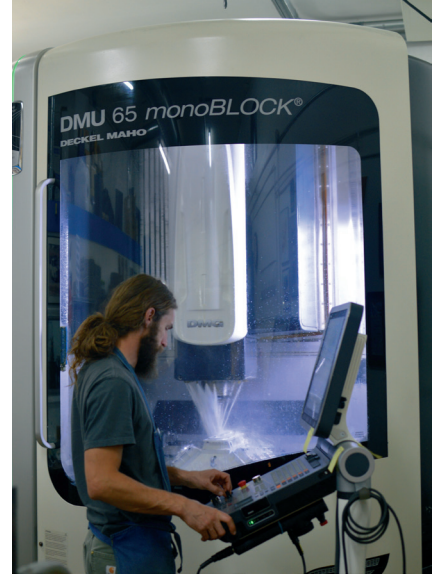
The company is a small family-owned and operated precision machine shop, located in Boulder, Colorado, in a facility the Peterson’s purchased years ago. Ronda says, “We were renting 3000 square feet in the building, and we were running out of space. The opportunity came up for us to purchase the entire building, with 14,000 square

foot, and today, we have added more space and can continue to do so as needed.”

Todd is a superior machinist, having learned the tool and die trade formally at an early age at a full time trade school in Iowa. Todd says, “Even before attending school, I was learning machining from my father, who was a machinist and inventor.” In fact, Todd and the Peterson Machining team are so innovative in their machining methodologies that they were featured in an article in Modern Machine Shop, where they developed and utilized a unique vise-within-a-vise system to cost effectively use five-axis manufacturing for complex parts. The company only buys superior high precision machine tools, and they run lights out.

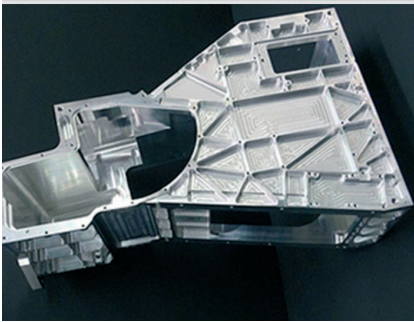
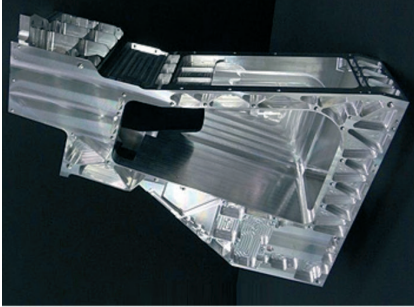
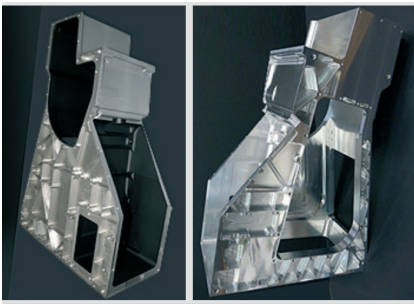
Today, Peterson Machining makes parts for a variety of industries, including aerospace, defense, radio frequency and instruments. Without a formal sales force, Todd says their customers come to them almost exclusively by word of mouth. Ronda says, “One of our outstanding customers is Retul Bike Fit, a young company in Boulder that is on the cutting edge of ‘bike fit’, recently acquired by Specialized. We began working with them when they were a start-up, and now their products are sold worldwide. Todd, the team and I love working with small businesses that grow beyond anyone’s expectations.” The team at Peterson Machining has made parts for a medical device for spinal disk surgery, and they are flight certified with LASP. The case pictured in various angles on the next page is part of the Maven Project that went to Mars. Launched November 18, 2013, it is part of an assembly that arrived to start gathering information in late 2014. Todd says it started out at 146 pounds and when it was finished it was 6.2 pounds measuring 6.0 x 12.0 x 18.2.

Todd says, “One of the reasons we make superior parts for our customers is that we have an outstanding team, and they have remained with us for years.” He added, “We treat our employees the way we want to be treated, and Celeste and Ronda make a wonderful lunch for the team every day.” Peterson Machining provides AAA service to their team so that they are never stranded, and



full medical benefits are provided to all. It is no wonder great employees remain with Peterson Machining, and this helps to ensure best in class quality for their customers. It is not just employees who reap the benefits of Ronda and Celeste’s kindness - Ronda loves Christmas and every year she and Celeste bake thousands of cookies. When she brings them to customers, Ronda comes dressed as an Elf!

More than 5 years ago, Ronda and Todd made the decision to certify to ISO 9001:2008. Ronda says, “First I tried to do it on my own, since we had heard from colleagues that the cost through a consultant



would exceed \$10,000.” She continued, “Since we are a small family run business, with all employees multitasking to support our customers (Ronda regularly runs machines), I found it was too time consuming for me to get our company certified on my own.”

Todd says, “I regularly saw BMSC’s ad in the A2Z Manufacturing magazine, and owner Bretta Kelly was always pictured in the ad.” He continued, “Ronda and I just liked Bretta’s message that ‘ISO Certification – its not rocket science’, and we felt that she would be someone we could work well with.”

In 2012, Peterson Machining selected BMSC as their consultant to certify to ISO 9001:2008. Ronda says, “Our interview to select BMSC as our consultant happened over the phone, and once we engaged in the actual preparation to certify, everything going forward was done virtually, using email and conference calls.”

Bretta says, “What made the process so

easy was how organized Ronda and her daughter Celeste were. We started with sending a hard copy of the manual, procedures, flow charts and forms organized in a controlled document book.” She continued, “Once the documents were written and reviewed, I had my first ever Virtual Internal Audit Seminar! I knew without question they were going to have a successful certification audit because they wrote their own system, audited their own system and conducted their own management reviews of their system.” The company successfully certified to ISO 9001: 2008 in 2012, and has never had a ‘Major’ finding in any of their subsequent audits.

Ronda and Celeste were eventually able to meet Bretta and Debbie face to face when the two flew to Arizona to attend BMSC’s seminar on “How To Prepare For Changes In ISO 9001:2015 and AS9100 Revision D.” Today, Ronda and Celeste are certified internal auditors for their company.



Ronda says, “When we made the decision this year to certify to AS9100 Revision D, there was no question about who we would hire to help us to achieve this – it was going to be BMSC.”

For the AS9100 certification, BMSC owner and teammate Debbie Hart came to Boulder to support their customer. Ronda says, “We thoroughly enjoyed working with BMSC years ago, but when Bretta and Debbie came to our shop, it cemented our relationship and our feeling that the two companies are such a good fit.”

She continued, “Todd and I are a great team – we each have different strengths and we compliment one another. Todd is such a great machinist, and he and the team continually find ways to improve our machining processes. I like working with people, and it is such an honor that Todd asked me to become majority owner of the business, making us a true Woman-Owned business.”

She added, “I liken Bretta and Debbie’s team ability to ours – both women have unique strengths, and when Bretta and Debbie came to help us to achieve AS9100 certification, they were like a smooth running machine. They work seamlessly together. They are such a great fit and did an outstanding job at capturing the tone of our shop.”

Todd and Ronda don’t just work well together at the shop and at their home. Todd has a passion for racecar driving, and the small crew is composed of him and Ronda. The two are planning to head to Indianapolis, where Todd will compete with his F1000. The two crewed for Tony Ave in 2015, where they were chosen because when Tony blew a motor at a race, both Ronda and Todd jumped in to help and worked on the motor through the night. While this is amazing, it is all the more so when you learn that Ronda and Todd were spectators. For those who don’t know Tony Ave, he is a championship racecar driver. He competed in the Grand-Am Series from 2000 until 2002, in Formula Atlantic from 1996 until 2001, and in the Trans-Am in 2002. He also made three Indy Lights starts in 1993 and one Indy Pro Series start in 2003. In 2004, Ave raced one race in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series finishing 31st. He is also a two time Trans Am champion.

To learn more about Peterson Machining and what they can cost effectively machine for you, contact them at 303-449-5755 or visit gotopmi.com

For ISO and AS9100 consulting, done with your business and processes in mind, contact Bretta Kelly, owner of BMSC. She can be reached at (602) 445-9400 or visit businessmsc.com