

In-House Tooling Enhances Speed, Controls Costs



KMC designs and builds a wide range of stamping tools in its own dedicated tooling operation.

Many companies in our business have a “tool room.” KMC has a fully staffed 20,000 square foot facility dedicated to tool design and production. This operation complements significant tooling capabilities within our production plants and allows us to complete even complex progressive tooling in as little as six weeks from design start, often even faster.

Our multi-facility, team-oriented approach to tool design and build provides exceptional levels of control and flexibility. We have the capacity to work efficiently on concurrent projects, as well as to deploy combined manpower for quick-turnaround jobs.

Like our production plants, KMC's tooling facility is ISO/TS 16949 certified, ensuring consistency at all points in the tooling process. And the similarity to our production environment doesn't end there. In fact, the tooling facility is equipped with a 200 ton, automatic feed press dedicated to tool test and evaluation. The ability to trial run tools to full rate right in the tooling facility ensures that production is not disrupted for tool debugging. At KMC, in-press tool development happens before the manufacturing floor, not on it.

TOTAL TOOLING RESPONSIBILITY

Through our in-house tool design and build, we ensure that all process steps remain consistent to international quality standards and our own, and that all steps are documented for repeatability down the road. This means that when a tool is rebuilt or replaced to support additional production runs and reruns, it will be made precisely to original spec, without wasted time.

Responsibility also extends to cost control. Because tool design is integral to KMC, “design for manufacturability” takes on a broader meaning for us than it might for companies that contract out their tooling. First, we design tools to be built with the most efficient use of time and material. But we also look ahead, matching the tool class to production requirements and to the production floor, developing tools that facilitate optimum layout of the strip for manufacturing speed with minimal scrap. The result is cost control throughout the process.



An example of parts produced with KMC-made progressive tooling.



KMC's toolmaking equipment includes several wire EDM machines.

INVESTING FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE

KMC's investment in our own tooling operations is substantial and, we believe, essential to serving our customers. We are equipped with advanced CNC machining capability, wire EDM, automated grinding, heat-treating equipment, and even a production-level press dedicated strictly to tool testing. Plus, we're continually evaluating ways that technology can be applied to do our jobs even better.

Most of all we invest in people – hiring tool engineers and builders with broad experience, providing ongoing training, then empowering our employees to achieve the highest levels of quality and efficiency.

OUR QUALITY COMMITMENT

The KMC quality system ensures adherence to customer specifications through contract review, advanced quality planning, production part approval processes, and a comprehensive inspection and test program. An active continuous improvement philosophy drives refinement of our products and processes, and improves service to our customers.

Evidence of KMC's commitment to quality is our certification to ISO/TS 16949 and ISO 9001:2000 quality standards. While ISO/TS is specific to customers in the automotive industry, this certification signifies to all customers that KMC is committed to the highest quality in product, engineering and manufacturing processes, and customer service.

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