

PROCESS EQUIPMENT COMPANY

HELPS REMY STREAMLINE PART INSPECTION



When it was time for Remy Inc. of Anderson, IN, to replace older gear inspection equipment, at the top of the company's list of requirements was a system that would be easy to set up, easy to use and easy to change over.

Remy manufactures the Delco-Remy brand of alternators and starters for the worldwide heavy-duty truck, agricultural, construction and industrial markets. The Anderson location does research and development work for those components, and therefore, the metallurgical lab sees a lot of variety in parts, says inspection machine lab technician Stephen Fernung.

"Before, it seemed to be a big deal to enter parameters and perform part changeovers," Fernung says. The previous gear inspection equipment at Remy was built in the 1980s and didn't have all the features or updated software of today's inspection systems.

Remy purchased a new ND430 Next Dimension analytical gear inspection system from Process Equipment Co. of Tipp City, OH. The ND430 is a Windows-based, four-axis generative elemental gear measurement system that utilizes a Renishaw 3-D scanning probe for measuring index, helix and involute profile deviations on gears.

"Out of all the systems we evaluated, we found the ND430 Next Dimension Gear Measurement system to be the easiest system to operate," Fernung says. "If you knew how to operate Windows, this was an easy machine to learn."

The machine's ease of use was extremely important because of the variety of parts that the R&D lab sees, Fernung says. "The probe calibration and changeover was a lot easier for us as opposed to the machine we had before."

Also, Fernung says, the ND430 has a lot of features that were important in the company's decision-making: "We have used other analytical equipment in the past, but have not found anything that has all of the attributes that the Next Dimension has."



Among those important attributes are the ND430's ability to automatically center a part and its built-in off-axis correction, Fernung says.

Another important feature for Remy—a company with manufacturing locations around the globe—is the ability to analyze parts using DIN, ISO, AGMA or user-defined standards and the ability to switch between standards with just a keystroke.

Earlier this year, Remy purchased its second ND430 system. According to Fernung, the technical support provided by Process Equipment was “a major reason” for selecting the vendor a second time.

“The service they gave us was a huge selling point,” Fernung says. “They were really willing to work with us.” Process Equipment modified the software so that the analysis results were easy to understand for Remy's engineers. “They made the printouts and results look similar to what we had previously.”

According to Process Equipment's business unit manager, Brian Slone, the company's approach is always to work with the customer to make sure the system is right for him. “It's very easy for us to customize the analysis packages,” Slone says. ■

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