Experience with GPS at Hamworthy Svanehøj A/S

GPS came to Northern Jutland in Denmark in 2005. A number of employees from Hamworthy Svanehøj A/S completed the company specific diploma GPS seminar offered by Danish Standards and Per Bennich of PB Metrology Consulting and the company has started using the international GPS standards for its engineering drawings.

By Carsten Henriksen, Danish Standards

GPS is the global language

Production is outsourced in the global economy. The engineering drawing is made in one part of the world while the product is manufactured somewhere else. GPS - Geometrical Product Specifications - is a modern, standardized symbol language, that ensures that drawings can only be interpreted one way and safeguards industry against expensive misunderstandings.

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Pumps without failures

"We create more and more of our drawings based on GPS. So far we concentrate on the parts that are going to be outsourced, but later we are going to base all our drawings on GPS." says Lau Halkjær, who is a senior engineer in the product development department at Hamworthy Svanehøj.

Hamworthy Svanehøj develops, produces and sells pumps for ships and offshore oil and gas installations. An increasing percentage of the manufacturing is outsourced to China.

"With GPS we are minimizing the risk of receiving parts with errors from our suppliers. This means that we are saving money because we have to scrap fewer parts. The transit time from China is long and it ruins our reputation if we cannot deliver on time because of errors. This is why it is especially important that our drawings cannot be misunderstood." says Lau Halkjær.

He also likes GPS on a personal level.

"It gives me satisfaction on a professional level to be able to specify the acceptable tolerance for a part unequivocally. GPS is the tool that enables me to do that. The uncertainty associated with translating ideas from the drawing board to reality is minimized." says Lau Halkjær.

Communication becomes easier

According to Lau Halkjær China is far ahead of Europe in the application of GPS. He recommends to European companies to adopt it, especially when it comes to outsourcing. *"GPS ensures that you get the parts you expect. We are using GPS as a preventive measure and have so far not had errors due to misunderstanding of our drawings. With GPS we can optimize manufacturing and save expenses. Communication with overseas suppliers becomes easier, also with people who do not understand English. It is not necessary because, for example, how parts are to be measured is built into GPS. It is a global language that saves time and minimizes the risk of misunderstandings."* he says.

Exchange of ideas and experiences in "GPS-Forum Denmark"

Danish Standards and PB Metrology Consulting have started "GPS-Forum Denmark" where Hamworthy Svanehøj participates along with a number of other Danish companies which have completed the diploma GPS seminar offered by Danish Standards and PB Metrology Consulting. "GPS-Forum Denmark" had its 3rd meeting in early 2006 at Grundfos in Bjerringbro. Hamworthy Svanehøj primarily participates to exchange experiences with GPS.

"We have just started using GPS and we can learn a lot from other peoples' experiences in GPS-Forum Denmark. At the same time we can keep track of what is new in GPS - something new is happening all the time. We can also use the forum to influence the future of GPS. For example, we are trying to influence the CAD vendors to customize the CAD programs to use the GPS symbols." says Lau Halkjær who has no doubt that the future of engineering drawings belong to GPS.

"There is growth in GPS. It is here to stay." concludes Lau Halkjær.

If you want to know more about GPS seminars for you or your company, please contact:

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