



INNOVATIVE PRECISION LLC

- TOOLMAKING • PROTOTYPING
- PRODUCTION MACHINING



Bryan Cardon couldn't have selected a better name for his company when he opened for business at the age of 22. Innovative Precision is one of the most progressive and innovative machine shops I have had the pleasure to tour. When it comes to "Precision" in the company name, just know that many of Innovative Precision's customers initially came to them with a job that they couldn't get done with their current suppliers. A part, or an assembly, wasn't meeting specs and the customer heard about Innovative Precision. Innovative Precision continues to be known for their ability to support their customers with complex parts and assemblies. Indeed, the name Innovative Precision is very appropriate.

Before starting up his own machine shop in 1998, Bryan learned the foundations of machining from the Davis Applied Technical Center (DATC), a technical university in the suburbs of Salt Lake City, Utah. While attending DATC, Bryan worked full-time at a machine shop, which is where he really learned the craft of precision manufacturing.

Innovative Precision opened with one employee, Bryan, a 22-year old with a dream, in a 1200 square foot facility. Its initial machines consisted of an EZ Trak knee mill and a manual lathe. Bryan's said his biggest challenge was getting potential customers to take him seriously. "They all thought I was too young to run a business," Bryan elaborated.

Once Bryan convinced his customers to try out Innovative Precision, they invariably returned year after year and additionally recommended the shop to their colleagues. Many are still Innovative Precision Customers today, and they include Boeing, Parker Hannifin, as well as a number of Fortune 500's across many industries.

Within a year of operation, the company grew to 4 employees and expanded into a 3000 square foot facility. For the next 7 years the company continued to expand to 10,000 square feet. Then in 2006 Innovative Precision moved into its own state of the art 12,000 square foot facility. "I am very grateful to the large Fortune 100 companies in the communications and aerospace industries who gave Innovative Precision a shot at their business almost from our inception," Bryan said.

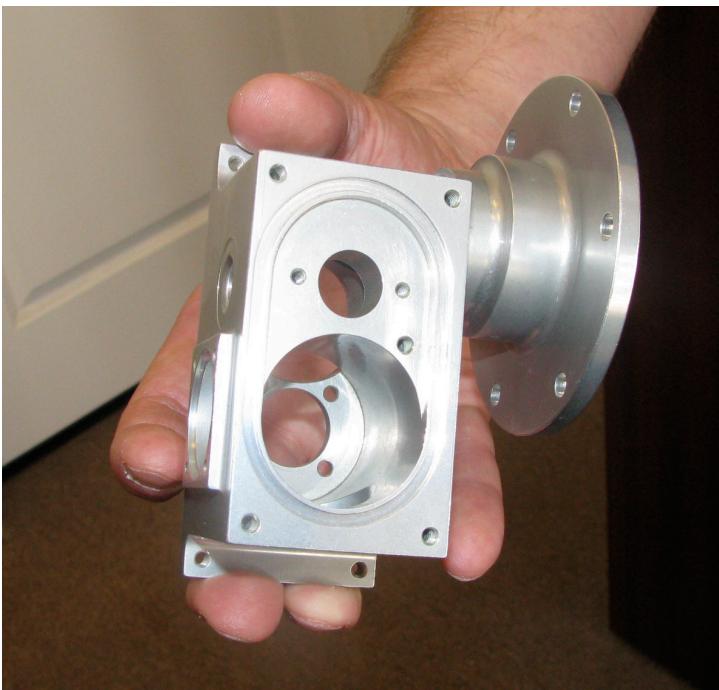
"What differentiates Bryan from other machine shop owners," Bryan's long term industry colleague Scott Trumble said, "is that he is not afraid to invest in new technology. In fact, he made several capital investments just after the 9/11 time frame and again during our recent economic downturn. Bryan recognizes that the investments the company continues to make help to ensure that Innovative Precision remains a top precision manufacturing company for its customers."

"Bryan takes a very unusual approach to hiring his employees," Scott continued. "He typically does not hire experienced machinists, as many other companies do. Bryan feels that it is better for Innovative Precision to identify bright young people who are recent graduates of a technical school."

Bryan said, "The team at Innovative Precision has to be flexible. They must have the ability to multi-task, they have to be able to learn how to operate all of our machines, become experts in programming, and embrace new business practices such as ISO and lean. A seasoned journeyman machinist may not be so open to change and constant learning. Our strategy of hiring young machinists and training them has been very successful for Innovative Precision, and the machinists we mentor tend to stay with us for a very long time." (The average tenure at Innovative Precision is in excess of 5 years!)

Innovative Precision successfully weathers downturns because it is extremely diversified. Today, the company serves more than 60 customers throughout North America, in such diverse industries as aerospace, defense, medical, commercial, automotive and communications.

Just last year, Innovative Precision achieved ISO9001 & AS9100 certification, all done in-house, and they implemented 5-S. A 5-S program is a part of, and the key component of establishing a Visual Workplace. It is a part of Kaizen --, a system of continual improvement -- which is a component of lean manufacturing. The results derived from a 5-S program are: improved profitability, efficiency, service and safety.



In its 12 years in business, Innovative Precision has grown to 17 full time employees and expanded with a variety of machines, purchased from a number of machine tool builders. Today the company has temperature controlled rooms equipped with grinding machines, EDM machines (wire and plunge), and an inspection lab, all utilized to support their expansive precision CNC machine shop, which can support prototype to production runs, with kitting and assembly capabilities.

The company owns a number of machines purchased from Smith Machinery, most notably a number of MAZAK machine tools. They recently purchased a MAZAK Horizontal HCN-5000. Bryan says, "We made this purchase because we needed the additional capacity, efficiency and improved lead times for our customers. The results have been dramatic. The MAZAK HCN-5000 provides us with 120 tools, where on our other machines we were maxed out at 30. It additionally provides us with 18,000 RPM, up from our previous maximum of 12,000 RPM."

"We own 3 MAZAK vertical machines, 2 VCN 510C vertical machining centers, and 1 410B, which have been outstanding and reliable machines for us," Bryan continued, "and the MAZAK HCN-5000 literally cuts cycle times in half. What is even more outstanding is that the MAZAK VCN 510 C's we purchased years ago cut our cycle times in half versus other builders' machines we own today. So you really can see what the MAZAK HCN-5000 does."

"The MAZAK machines just don't go down," Bryan said, and on the very rare instances where we have a problem, we are supported by both Smith Machinery, our MAZAK dealer in Utah, and by MAZAK directly. Smith Machinery has one of the best applications engineers in Ben Anderson, who lives here in Utah. The training and support we receive from both Smith Machinery and MAZAK, coupled with the reliability of the machines is one of the key reasons we continue to buy MAZAK. In fact, in the 6 years that we have owned MAZAK machines we have never experienced a major component failure."

For more information on Innovative Precision, and to hear more about their growth plans, with an additional facility in the works and 24x7 unattended production capabilities, call them at (801) 334-6317 or go to www.innovativeprecision.com.

For more information on Smith Machinery Company, also an ISO9001:2008 registered company, call them at (801) 263-6403 or go to www.smithmachinetools.com.

Aerospace Composite Manufacturer

"Innovative Precision has been our preferred supplier for high precision machined parts. They pay close attention to detail and tolerances required in most of our designs. They are always competitive in their pricing and delivery. It is great to have a superior machine shop like Innovative Precision available and able to do our work."

- *Automation Design Engineer*

Aerospace / Military Communications Manufacturer

"Innovative Precision consistently meets or exceeds customer requirements. They are proactive in providing a quality product. The customer support is exceptional, a real easy company to do business with."

- *Supplier Quality Engineer*

Major Automotive Manufacturer

"I would recommend Innovative Precision to any manufacturing company looking to improve their bottom line. I see a bright future for Innovative Precision."

- *Machine Shop Supervisor*

Major Electronics Manufacturer

"From prototype tooling to production type runs, their [Innovative Precision] flexibility, lead times, prices and quality are excellent."

- *Mechanical Engineer*

Medical Device Manufacturer

"I never hesitate to send my parts to Innovative Precision because they have the people, know-how and equipment to make anything from the simplest to the most complex part."

- *Mechanical Engineer*

