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News Release

From Vacu-Blast Limited

AIRMOTIVE IRELAND COMMISSIONS SPECIAL VACU-BLAST CNC SHOT PEENER

Airmotive Ireland has commissioned a Vacu-Blast automatic shot peener at its jet engine overhaul facility near Dublin. This latest technology CNC peening system will enhance the life and resistance to fatigue cracking of more than 200 different components from the Pratt & Whitney JT9D, JT8D and JT3D engine ranges and from the CFM 56-2 and -3 Series engines, which Airmotive Ireland repairs and overhauls for its customers worldwide.

The peener features a twin blast nozzle system operated by a six-axis ABB robot for processing external surfaces, and also includes a rotary head attachment for peening the internal surfaces of bores and cavities.

The plant's process control system measures shot flow constantly against the programmed setting and an associated printer provides a process control record for each component peened.

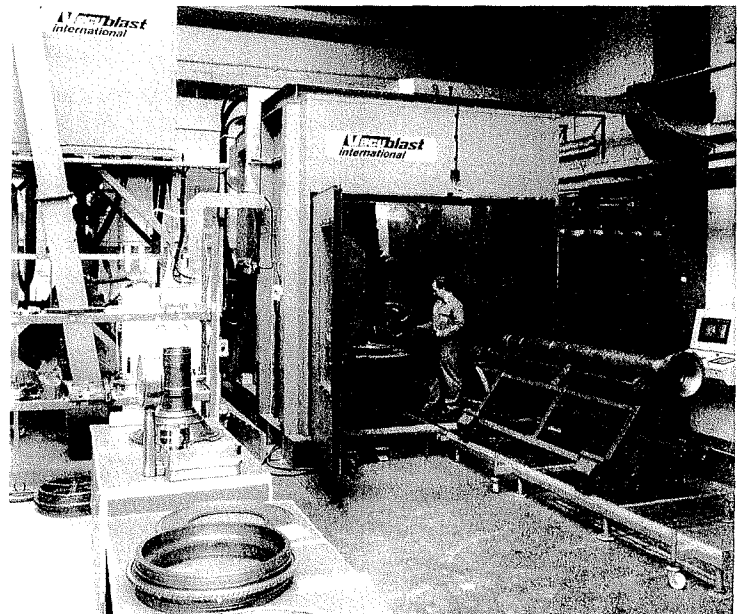
Peening intensity for each different component is gauged and monitored using traditional 'Almen' strips mounted at different locations on a test piece (normally a 'retired' part), which is processed and checked before a live operation on an actual component.

Shot is supplied from a continuously-cycling dual pressure vessel. The media is fed from one of two hoppers, one for each of the two shot sizes employed - either S-170 or S-110, depending on the required peening intensity. Changeover from one size to the other is automatic and includes safety features to prevent contamination.

Quality of the shot is constantly controlled and worn media is removed automatically by means of full in-cycle shot flow monitoring and size-and-shape classification. The peening enclosure has a pneumatic 'Waffle-Floor' recovery system and a full-flow reclaimer.

Total Quality

The new peener is the latest in a line of Vacu-Blast surface treatment equipment supplied to Airmotive Ireland over more than a decade. As a company committed to total quality, Airmotive Ireland recognized both Vacu-Blast's own commitment to product quality and strong customer support service as significant factors in the purchasing decision. Installation of the peener forms part of Airmotive Ireland's programme of continuous investment in state-of-the-art technology.



For further information, please contact:

Roger Brickwood
Vacu-Blast Limited
Woodson House, Ajax Avenue
Slough, Berkshire SL1 4DJ England
Tel: 0753-526511 • Fax: 0753-538093



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