



# Nex-Tech Processing A Nadcap Success Story

**F**or more than 30 years, Nex-Tech Processing, formerly Air Capitol Plating, has provided the aviation industry with metal processing, plating, painting and non-destructive inspection. Nex-Tech Processing, based in Wichita, Kansas, is a division of Nex-Tech Aerospace.

Dave Jones, Senior Quality Manager, explains his experiences with the Nadcap program.



*The company has been involved with Nadcap since 2005 when we received a customer mandate to obtain Nadcap accreditation. In the five years since, we have not only satisfied that initial requirement but extended our accreditations to other special processes. We are currently Nadcap accredited for all three of our approvals: Chemical Processing, Non-Destructive Testing and Surface Enhancement (Shot Peening). In all three instances, we have satisfied the industry-determined criteria for superior audit performance and been awarded merit status. In real terms, as well as showing existing and potential customers that we know what we're doing, it means that we are visited less frequently by Nadcap auditors, resulting in resource savings.*

*Achieving Nadcap accreditation and merit status is not easy and in my experience, the biggest challenge relates to documentation. Most (if not all) processors work within the specifications set out by their customers. Despite this, providing objective evidence to support responses to the Nadcap audit checklist questions can sometimes prove difficult. For example, catch tests have always been performed but the instructions on how to perform them have always been*

*provided verbally. The requirement for Nadcap, however, is a written procedure. How else can compliance be verified by a panel of industry experts?*

*There is light at the end of the tunnel—we have seen tangible benefits to being Nadcap accredited. For example, the company has experienced an increase in work from machine shops that are required to utilize Nadcap-accredited sources. We have also been able to make new contacts and obtain support from customers by attending the Nadcap meetings, which are a great source of information as well as an invaluable networking opportunity. Attending the Nadcap meetings allows us regular face-to-face time with the key decision-makers of aerospace prime contractors and helps us to build relationships with them that have proven to be very beneficial when questions arise in day-to-day business.*

*For companies interested in playing an active role in the Nadcap program, there are many ways you can get involved. Supplier input into the regular audit checklist revision discussions are welcomed, for example. I am now a Supplier Voting Member on both the Chemical Processing and the Surface Enhancement Task Groups. I got involved to better understand the checklists and also so that my company could have a voice in the changes that are flowed down from the Task Group. As I attended more meetings, I could really appreciate the achievements of the Task Groups and their willingness to listen to the supplier perspective. Over time, I was approached by the Supplier Support Committee Leadership Team to become a member representing the Americas. I accepted the role and embarked on the next step of my Nadcap journey. ●*