

intensities, in addition to larger-sized shot (S550 and S660), will require velocities as high as 500 feet per second. Such velocities can only be generated using a blast nozzle at pressures close to 90 psi. Velocity and its measurement will continue to play a critical role in controlled shot peening of components, particularly in Aerospace. In “Visions of the Future” (*The Shot Peener*, Winter 2016), Jim Whalen of Progressive Surface commented that their ShotMeter G3 Particle Velocity Sensor was gaining in popularity as customers were interested in a direct approach to velocity scanning as opposed to solely relying on downstream verifications of intensity. Velocity monitoring and measurement will continue to gain importance.

### The Evolution of Shot Peening

The velocity discussion is indeed profound and one could go on for hours. But my respondents had other interesting stories also to share! “During the 70s, it was common to say that peening was more of an art than a science,” says Bill Rhodaberger when talking about its evolution. “North America had two distinct markets, Aerospace and ‘everyone else.’ A common belief was that the ‘everyone else’ group viewed shot peening as an added insurance factor whereas the aviation industry used peening as a design tool to ensure performance of the part. It was a real challenge in the go-go days of the auto business to have them adopt the aviation attitude towards process controls of shot peening. In too many cases, shot peening outside of aviation was a mixed bag of going through the motions versus process control. Production was more important.”

Ron Barrier of Wheelabrator adds that without an experienced engineer in charge of peening, he was often met with the “1000-yard-stare” look when he explained shot peening to them in the 70s, let alone process control. We have certainly come a long way since then. Training has been formalized, equipment design has become more versatile and more industries are taking an active interest in the benefits of the process. Bill reminded me of an anecdote about the college intern of an auto supplier who pounded used Almen strips to flatten and re-use them in order to impress his supervisor with his money-saving tactic on strips! Such incidences have not been reported since!

### Not a Conclusion, a Continuation

When I started writing this, I thought I was going to list the tips that my retired colleagues gave me, all in one article, but it turned out to be more than that. But then, one must know where we came from to know where we are headed! Therefore, this is not a conclusion. My colleagues have talked about several other aspects of blast cleaning and peening that I think deserve a sequel to this article! In the next issue, we will discuss topics related to blast patterns affected by shot size, media breakdown rate rules of thumb, a special section on tumblast techniques, targeting blast wheels, fixturing, and shot maintenance. ●

## Siemens Announces Remote Work as Permanent Fixture for 140,000 Employees



*The Siemens logo on a door of the Siemens headquarters in central Munich. Siemens is the largest engineering company in Europe.*

**SIEMENS**, the Germany-based manufacturing conglomerate, announced in July that it is establishing remote working as a key part of its “new normal,” making it a permanent component of the company’s employee operations.

The provider of intelligent infrastructure for buildings and energy distribution systems said it will implement a system for its global workforce to be able to work remotely two or three days per week on average. The new work model applies to over 140,000 of Siemens’ employees, spread across 125 locations in 43 countries. The company has about 385,000 employees in total. “The coronavirus crisis and social distancing measures have shown that working independently of a fixed location offers many advantages and is possible on a much wider scale than originally thought,” Siemens said in a press release, adding that a global employee survey confirmed their desire for more flexibility as for where they work.

Siemens said employees taking part in the new working model consult with their supervisors when choosing the work locations where they are most productive. The system will account for local legal requirements, the needs of specific jobs, and individual preferences.

The company said it has enabled 300,000 employees to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that they’ve been able to effectively collaborate and hold over 800,000 online meetings per day — all while being in different locations. Siemens also noted that the change will coincide with a different leadership style that prioritizes outcomes rather than on time spent at the office.

While many large corporations have encouraged and instituted temporary working from home procedures amid the pandemic, Siemens is one of the first to make it a permanent fixture. ● (Source: [www.thomasnet.com](http://www.thomasnet.com))