

Solar Atmospheres and Camcraft: Partners in Excellence

One of the traits our customers value is Camcraft's willingness to find the missing piece of the puzzle to complete a successful product launch, whether it's a new technology from Europe or Asia, or the perfect recipe to heat treat a critical fuel systems component from Pennsylvania.

A mutual customer introduced us to Solar Atmospheres 17 years ago when we were experiencing a unique heat treatment distortion issue with a new fuel injection system component. We collaborated with Solar Atmospheres and quickly found the solution, and that part remains in production to this day.

What was the solution? Solar Atmospheres specializes in low pressure vacuum carburizing. The process is designed to increase fatigue life and improve wear properties. It produces a uniform, high-quality case with minimized distortion and absence of burnt-on decarb and scale, reducing or eliminating the need for us to add expensive post heat treating machining operations.

This is important because after heat treatment, surface areas on the inside of these components will not be machined again. Typically, heat treatment is one of the last processes before we ship the part to our customer, and we can't deliver any of our parts with irregularities in these intricate areas.

An Open and Honest Relationship

At Camcraft, we strive to have open and collaborative relationships with both our customers and our vendors. Solar's philosophy mirrors our own, and this facilitates quick problem solving when any issues arise. Together we can focus on delivering the best possible solutions for our clients.

Just as we invest in equipment for particular customers, we appreciate the fact that Solar Atmospheres respects us enough as a partner to invest over \$2 million in equipment to support Camcraft and our products. They also share our dedication to process control and continuous improvement.

When asked about the partnership, Mike Johnson, Solar Atmospheres' Sales Manager said, "The thing I like about Camcraft, and the one thing that is unique about Solar in the heat treatment industry, is that we have an unwavering commitment to honesty in all relationships." Mike also said he enjoys the relationships with our people and looks forward to working with what he calls "the next generation" as they move up the leadership ladder.

Joe Furlano, our Manager of Supply Chain and Quality Assurance, puts it this way: "We are expert machinists, but we need to partner with the highest level experts in all stages of the process to deliver a quality product to our customers. We have a very high level of trust with Solar Atmospheres."

In any partnership, mutual respect and similar values create a solid working relationship. We insist on delivering the highest level of quality to our customers, and Solar Atmospheres' commitment to quality and dedication to customer service mirrors our own. When you find a partner like that, distance doesn't matter.



Solar Souderton Adds Additional All-Metal Hot Zone Furnace

Solar's Souderton facility has now added a second deep vacuum, all-metal hot zone furnace to its climate controlled room. These specialized furnaces allow for surface contamination-free, bright results when processing sensitive materials such as titanium, tantalum, zirconium, and alloys like Inconel 718™ that tend to discolor in a standard vacuum furnace.

The furnace will have a working zone of 24" x 24" x 36" deep with 2-bar quench capability. The furnace will aid Solar with our growing medical work. The furnace will be operational in September of 2016.



Solar California Receives Nadcap Merit Status for Heat Treating



Solar Atmospheres of California announces that it has been awarded

Nadcap 24 month Merit status for Heat Treating. We are extremely pleased PRI has recognized our corporate commitment to quality. Achieving 24 month merit has been a goal set by Solar's employees since opening its doors in 2011. The adherence to strict specification requirements, flawless process execution, and a daily commitment to quality processing is evident among all employees of Solar Atmospheres of California.

Solar Atmospheres of California has held Nadcap accreditation since 2011. Having demonstrated their ongoing commitment to quality by satisfying customer requirements and industry specifications, the Nadcap Task Group has determined that Solar Atmospheres of California has earned this special recognition. Instead of having their next Nadcap audit in eighteen months, Solar Atmospheres of California has been granted an accreditation that lasts until 31 July 2018.

"Achieving Nadcap accreditation is not easy; it is one of the ways in which the aerospace industry identifies those who excel at manufacturing quality product through superior special processes. Companies such as Solar Atmospheres of California go above and beyond achieving Nadcap accreditation to obtain Merit status and they should be justifiably proud of it," said Joe Pinto, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Performance Review Institute. "Benefitting from a less frequent audit schedule reduces audit costs and associated pressures and demonstrates the trust that the aerospace industry has in Solar Atmospheres of California based on their past performance in Nadcap audits. PRI is proud to support continual improvement in the aerospace industry by helping companies such as Solar Atmospheres of California be successful and we look forward to continuing to assist the industry moving forward."

Solar Atmospheres Expansion Updates:

CALIFORNIA Facility



Construction on the 25,000 square foot expansion at our Fontana, California facility is on schedule - effectively doubling the size of the facility. The floor has been poured and the structural beams are in place. The expansion is targeted to be fully operational by the end of the year.

HERMITAGE Facility



The commissioning of the "World's Largest Commercial Vacuum Furnace" is now complete! After qualifying under a stringent AMS 2750 E temperature uniform survey, the 25 thermocouples that spanned the 48' length by 5' diameter hot zone envelope were all within +/- 10°F from the furnace set point. Three individual pumping systems, each set consisting of a Stokes 412 roughing pump, a BOC Edwards 615 blower pump, and a 35" Varian diffusion pump enables the chamber to be consistently pumped down into a deep vacuum of 10⁻⁶ Torr range. Fast cooling is achieved by utilizing three Marathon 300HP blower motors controlled with variable frequency drives, each independently regulating the controlled inert gas flow through large water cooled heat exchangers. Finally, each of the two load cars are capable of transferring 150,000 pound workloads in and out of the furnace, while being insulated with a new Solar Manufacturing patented hot zone material which is more thermally efficient and absorbs less moisture when exposed to air.



Solar Southeast Adds Lab Technician

July 11, 2016, Jason Van Pelt started his new role at Solar Southeast as a Laboratory Technician. We are excited to have him in this role and help the Greenville facility meet and exceed our customer's needs as we continue to grow.

Jason started out with Solar at our Eastern PA facility in August of 2006. He started in production and also worked as a furnace operator where he performed well and was a leader on his shift. When Jason learned about the Southeast facility, he was interested and eager to be part of building something new and the opportunity this could hold for Solar and his family.



Jason started in Greenville in August of 2015 as the lead operator on 3rd shift. He is always willing to learn something new and be a part of providing excellent service and high quality heat treatments for our customers. He also took on the responsibilities within the metallurgical lab, enabling the Greenville plant to test product outside of normal business hours - which was a huge advantage for a new facility with limited staffing.

Steve Prout, president of Solar Atmospheres Southeast, states, "Jason's commitment to doing what is necessary to meet our customer's needs made him an ideal candidate when it was seen that additional growth meant more consistent support was required in the metallurgical lab."

Solar Souderton Employee Retires

Solar Atmospheres recently experienced another retirement of service. Rod Shultz, who was with Solar Atmospheres for 24 years, retired in June.

Rod began employment with Solar as a furnace operator, and a few years later became the shipping supervisor, and later on, became our Transportation Manager for the majority of his career with Solar Atmospheres. He was always the first person to report to work and often the last to leave.

On June 2nd, a small retirement luncheon was held at Zoto's Diner to celebrate Rod's years of dedicated service. With approximately 25 coworkers in attendance, along with Rod's wife Carol, Bill Jones, CEO of Solar Atmospheres, presented Rod with a gift, and sincerely thanked Rod for all he did for Solar over the years. Also, on June 5th - Rod's last day, we had soft pretzels out in the shipping area for employees to stop out and get a pretzel from Rod and wish him well on his retirement.

Rod plans on keeping himself busy as he enters retirement traveling to various locations with his wife. They are also the owners of Kooker's Central Store in Dublin, PA. The store is open on special weekends for people to walk through as a historical museum showcasing the local history. Solar wishes Rod good health and all the best in his future endeavors.



Upcoming Trade Shows



Pipe & Tube
Sept. 20-22, 2016
Charlotte, NC



MD&M Minneapolis
Sept. 21-22, 2016
Minneapolis, MN



Titanium USA
Sept. 25-28, 2016
Phoenix, AZ



D2P Marlborough
Sept. 28-29, 2016
Marlborough, MA



D2P Akron
Oct. 12-13, 2016
Akron, OH



D2P Long Beach
Oct. 26-27, 2016
Long Beach, CA

This newsletter is published by Solar Atmospheres, a leader in world-class vacuum heat treating services.

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