

## Solar Atmospheres California Facility Expansion Complete

Solar Atmospheres of CA (SCA) is pleased to announce the completion of its most recent facility expansion. The new expansion allows SCA to double its current heat treating capacity on the west coast while continually striving to meet the needs of an ever growing customer base.

Project expansion began taking shape in July 2016 with ground breaking for a new 25,000 sq. ft. building. Upon completion of building construction in July 2017 and, applying the lessons learned from SCA's initial facility build in 2010-11, SCA immediately began the design, fabrication and installation of all required support systems including water and gas delivery.

In preparation for the added growth, SCA has procured an additional four vacuum furnaces from sister company Solar Manufacturing (SMI) based in Souderton, PA.

Additional state-of-the-art vacuum heat treating equipment includes:

### SMI Model HFL-5748-10IQ-VC "High Pressure Vacuum Gas Carburizing Furnace"

- Rigid Graphite Hot Zone design measuring 36" W X 36" H X 48" Deep
- 35" Varian Diffusion Pump for sustained high vacuum processing
- Low Pressure Vacuum Carburizing capability
- Operating Range: 600°F – 2200°F (Maximum Temperature 2750°F)
- Maximum Cooling Pressure: 10 Bar (135 psig) with 300HP Gas Blower
- Maximum Loading Capacity: 7,000 lbs.

### SMI Model HFL-7472-10IQ-VC "High Pressure Vacuum Gas Carburizing Furnace"

- Rigid Graphite Hot Zone design measuring 48" W X 48" H X 72" Deep
- 35" Varian Diffusion Pump for sustained high vacuum processing
- Low Pressure Vacuum Carburizing capability



- Operating Range: 600°F – 2200°F (Maximum Temperature 2750°F)
- Maximum Cooling Pressure: 10 Bar (135 psig) with 300HP Gas Blower
- Maximum Loading Capacity: 15,000 lbs.

### SMI Model HFL-7472-2EQ "All Metal Hot Zone with Isolated Gas Quench System"

- 6-Layer All Moly Hot Zone design measuring 48" W X 48" H X
- 35" Varian Diffusion Pump with "Isolated" external gas quench system for optimized sustained high vacuum processing of sensitive materials.
- Operating Range: 600°F – 2400°F (Maximum Temperature 2800°F)
- Maximum Loading Capacity: 15,000 lbs.

*continued on page 3*

## Solar Atmospheres Greenville, SC Facility Is Now Nadcap Approved for Furnace Brazing

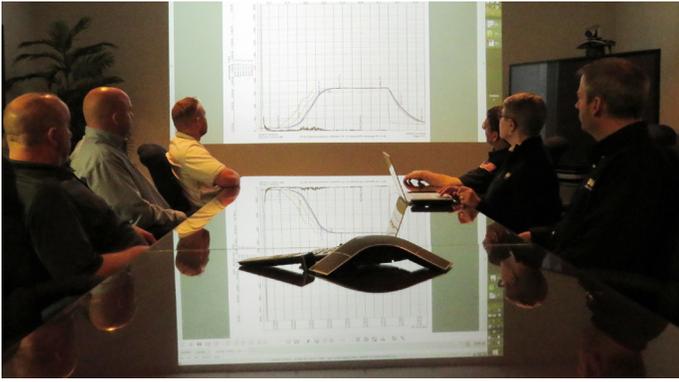


Solar Atmospheres Greenville, SC facility has for the second successive year expanded its scope of Nadcap approval: this time to include vacuum furnace brazing for the growing aerospace manufacturing cluster in the Southeast US.

Jon Collier, Quality Manager at Solar Atmospheres in Greenville, SC states, "Earning this Nadcap accreditation for vacuum furnace brazing reaffirms our commitment to providing our customers with quality services that meet the increasingly stringent requirements of the aerospace industry. This accomplishment speaks to the effort of the entire Solar team coming together to build and implement the additional systems required to achieve this expansion of scope."

Mike Harper, Regional Sales Manager, Southeast states: "we are excited to once again demonstrate what Solar Atmospheres is all about, listening to the needs of our customers and responding with a solution to meet those needs."

With thermal processing in furnaces ranging from those suited for small lots and development cycles to a 6-1/2 foot diameter by 24 foot long vacuum chamber capable of processing up to 50,000 lbs at 2400°F, Solar Atmospheres is backed by AS9100 and Nadcap quality systems to provide our customers the confidence that their product is being processed appropriately.



## Solar Atmospheres of Western PA Receives Nadcap 24-Month Merit Status

Solar Atmospheres of Western PA announces that it has been awarded Nadcap 24-month merit status.

Susan Generalovich, Quality Manager says: "Teamwork! I am so proud of our entire Solar team. The only way to achieve high quality standards is to have every member pulling in the same direction. That is what we have here at Solar Atmospheres of Western PA. From top management to the guys on the floor, everyone is focused on quality. We know this from our visitors and our customers. They appreciate the care they see used on their products and on our facility."

"Congratulations to Solar Atmospheres on successfully passing what may be the aerospace industry's most stringent process capability assessment audit," said Joe Pinto, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Performance Review Institute.

"Nadcap audit criteria are widely acknowledged to be hard to meet, and companies like Solar Atmospheres who succeed at doing so rightfully deserve recognition."

## Solar Atmospheres Souderton, PA Receives MedAccred Certification for Third Consecutive Year

Solar Atmospheres announces that it has been reaccruited with the MedAccred certification for heat treating at the Souderton, PA facility for a third consecutive year.

Solar Atmospheres in Souderton has held the MedAccred accreditation since the program's inception in 2015. Solar boasts the honor of becoming the first, globally, to achieve a MedAccred Heat Treating Accreditation and has maintained its accreditation seamlessly since the initial audit.

Given the ever-changing landscape of the medical manufacturing industry and having demonstrated its ongoing commitment to quality by satisfying customer requirements and industry specifications, Solar Atmospheres is gratified to have earned the prestigious "MedAccred First" medallion of accreditation while maintaining a MedAccred Heat Treating accreditation at the Souderton location on a continuous basis.



## Curtis Ferguson Earns Eagle Scout



Curtis Ferguson recently earned the prestigious Eagle Scout rank from his Troop 7 located in Clark, PA. Curtis is the eldest son of Solar Atmospheres of Western PA's Furnace Operator Fred Ferguson and his wife Jill. Curtis is currently a senior at Reynolds High School and is planning to enlist with the United States Marine Corps this year. Besides being an Honor Student at Reynolds, Curtis enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time. Honing his hunting skills, Curtis recently took 3rd place in the Pennsylvania State Archery Association (PSAA) state championship tournament for his age. Kevin, Curtis's younger brother, seems to be well on his way toward following his big brother's footsteps. At the age of 14 years old Kevin has already achieved his Life Scout status!

The Eagle Scout is the highest achievement, or rank, attainable in the Boy Scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America. Less than five percent of all Boy Scouts go on to earn this rank after a lengthy review process. Everyone within the Solar organization would like to congratulate Curtis for all of his hard work and dedication. More importantly thanks to Fred and Jill for encouraging Curtis and reminding him earning the Eagle Scout will have more long-term significance throughout his life than almost anything else he would do as a young man.

Congratulations Curtis!

## Jamie Jones Presented With MTI Distinguished Service Award

Solar Atmospheres president, Jamie Jones, was recently presented with the Metal Treating Institute (MTI) Distinguished Service Award for 2017, and nominated as Vice President / President Elect of MTI for 2017-2017. Jamie has served on the Institute's Board of Governors since 2013. He has served on a variety of different committees including the Education Committee and NextGen Creative Team.

Jamie was honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award, an award given for outstanding, significant, and well recognized contributions of lasting importance to MTI.

Solar Atmospheres has been a member of MTI since 1983.

Jamie indicated that he was "very happy to serve MTI in this capacity. I look forward to the challenges ahead and embrace the opportunity to build MTI to be an even more all-encompassing organization for commercial and contract heat treaters around the globe."

The Metal Treating Institute (MTI) is the world's largest collection of commercial heat treaters with locations in 40 states, 8 countries, and over \$1.2 billion in annual sales. More information can be obtained about MTI by going to [www.heattreat.net](http://www.heattreat.net).



# Solar Atmospheres California Expansion Update

(continued)

## SMI Model HCB-120288-2EQ "120" DIA X 288" Long Horizontal Car-Bottom Furnace"

- Rigid Graphite Hot Zone design measuring 96"W X 96"H X 288" Deep
- Multiple 35" Varian Diffusion Pumps for sustained high vacuum processing
- Operating Range: 600°F – 2200°F (Maximum Temperature 2600°F)
- Maximum Loading Capacity: 150,000 lbs.



Pictured: Chuck Miller, Maintenance Manager/Facilities Engineer at the Solar Atmospheres California facility, who managed the building and support systems design and fabrication along with the new equipment design and installation.

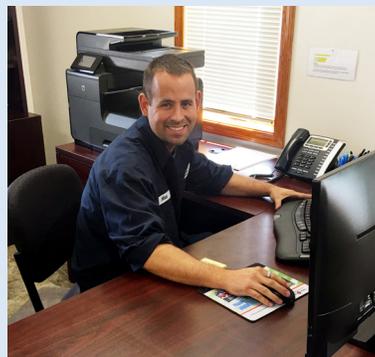
All Solar Manufacturing furnaces are designed for high performance, low maintenance and energy efficient results.

"We are very thankful for the opportunity to grow our facility," states Derek Dennis, President, Solar Atmospheres of California. "Every SCA employee appreciates the trust and confidence that our customers have place in our abilities to service their Vacuum Heat Treating, Brazing and Carburizing requirements. Our focus remains on providing the highest quality product with unsurpassed

customer service, on-time, every-time in the safest, most efficient and environmentally friendly manner. The last 6+ years of providing vacuum processing services in Southern California have proven to be both challenging and rewarding. We look forward to working with our current customer base along with new customers in solving their heat treat challenges. SCA understands the importance we play in our customers' supply chain, especially where delivery and quality are expected. These new facility expansions well help us meet these expectations."

## Meet Our Level III NDT Inspector

Matt Tarbay has recently been promoted as the new Testing Manager for Solar Atmospheres of Western Pennsylvania's facility. Matt had previously managed SAWPA's multi-million dollar Boeing 787 seat track cell. Within this cell Matt and his team successfully vacuum stress relieved, dimensionally inspected, and fluorescent liquid penetrant inspected (NDT) over three linear miles of critical titanium seat tracks per month. Since the penetrant inspection was a new value added service for Solar, there was a great deal of training involved. Over the years that NDT training was performed by an outside responsible Level III consultant. Within a period of seven years, up to eight Solar employees have taken both the practical and written tests to achieve Level II status.



Matt Tarbay, however, did not want to stop there. During his three year stint of being a Level II inspector, he decided to study very hard, both at work and at home. He successfully completed a Level III online training course and eventually passed the ASNT Penetrant Inspection Level III exam with flying colors.

Today, as Solar's in house Level III inspector, Matt manages five Level II employees as well as assumes all technical responsibility for all NDT programs at Solar. His responsibilities include the interpretation of codes and standards, approving NDT procedures for technical adequacy, and determining the proper method and technique for inspection. Ultimately Matt is responsible for directing, training, examining, and certification of all Solar NDT personnel per NAS 410, which is the stringent requirement needed for inspecting flight-critical work. Matt, along with Quality Manager Susan Generalovich, has hosted numerous NADCAP and Boeing audits and both currently possess a merit standing in NDT testing.

Matt currently lives in Hermitage, PA with his lovely wife Lora and his romping two boys Matthew and Mason. He is a graduate of Westminster College and has been employed with Solar for almost five years. During that short time Matt has taken on many other challenges as a special project coordinator. This last accomplishment, attaining his NDT Level III in house status, has proven to everyone that he can attain any goal he would ever set.

As Solar looks forward to the next service that it can offer that will add significant value to its customers parts, everyone knows that Matt will be front and center and ready to lead the charge!

## UPCOMING TRADE SHOWS



**BIOMEDevice**  
April 18-19, 2018  
Boston, MA



**Rapid-TCT - San Diego**  
April 24-26, 2018  
Fort Worth, TX



**Aero-Mat**  
May 7-9, 2018  
Orlando, FL



**Space Tech Expo**  
May 22-24, 2018  
Pasadena, CA



**MD&M East**  
June 12-14, 2018  
New York, NY

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

**Patricia Niederhaus**  
Editor

**Keith Reim**  
Corporate Marketing Manager

**Kim Harrison**  
Graphic Designer

**solaratm.com**  
**1-855-WE-HEAT-IT**



1969 Clearview Road  
Souderton, PA 18964

☎ 1-855-WE-HEAT-IT

Return Service Requested

ISO 9001:2008

AS 9100

registered 



The Spotlight | Solar Atmospheres Newsletter  
Winter 2018

If you no longer wish to receive *The Spotlight*, would like a co-worker to receive it, or need to update your address, please email us at [marketing@solaratm.com](mailto:marketing@solaratm.com)



# THE Spotlight

Winter 2018



Solar Atmospheres, Hermitage, PA

- Solar California Facility Expansion Complete
- Solar Southeast Is Nadcap Approved for Brazing
- Meet Our Level III NDT Inspector
- Solar Hermitage Receives Nadcap Merit Status
- Jamie Jones Presented With MTI Distinguished Service Award
- Curtis Ferguson Earns Eagle Scout
- Solar Souderton Receives MedAccred Certification