

ENGLISH

## Good collaboration between VOH and MW Programmation

A modern company in constant search for innovation, VOH has been offering professional equipment and original solutions for the watch and microtechnology industries since 1995.

VOH's work philosophy is based on analysis and understanding of the need and is complemented by competent business advice and partner contact with customers. This combination of skills makes it possible to offer specifically adapted solutions and makes VOH a reference label.

The main focus of products and services is on quality control measures through adapted production equipment or innovative control measures. The target market is the microtechnology industry, of which the watch industry is a major component. Watch-making is our main sector, our source of inspiration and the origin of our developments.

The company has various CNC machines in its production workshop, including two five-axis milling machines, three three-axis milling machines, a two-spindle lathe, a turret, a two-axis lathe and three bar turning machines.

### VOH and Alphacam

VOH has been a customer for many years. They decided to update their Alphacam software and tools to improve the workshop's production. Before, when resuming an old program to reproduce parts, the mechanic had great difficulty gathering all the useful information in order to prepare the start-up on the CNC machine.

The programs were poorly listed, the drawing version was difficult to identify and it was really difficult to know if the last production had been carried out in good conditions. In other words, there were a lot of hazards during the productions and we sometimes had trouble re-machining past series. Alexandre Mercier, group leader of bar turning at VOH SA explains that it sometimes happened that everything was recreated to new.

When he started working in the company, Bastien Zbinden, head of the machining group, had the main task of improving the organisation of the workshop and increasing its productivity and quality.

*In addition, VOH SA was and is increasingly confronted with small specific series, which leads to a large number of setting up operations.*

To improve this production, he called on MW Programmation, an official reseller of Alphacam software.

Together, they took stock of the situation in order to propose the best tools to optimize the workshop. An update of the software



La mise en train sur la machine est beaucoup plus rapide grâce aux outils proposés par Alphacam.

Dank den Alphacam-Werkzeugen kann die Maschine viel schneller eingerichtet werden.

The setting up of the machine is much faster thanks to the Alphacam tools.

was proposed as well as postprocessors adapted to the workshop machines. MW Programmation has also proposed a "File Management" module to group programs, NC codes and production-related documents in the same database. Customized documentation has also been created to complete the information for setting up.

Bastien Zbinden explains that these new tools have considerably improved the organization and production of the workshop. He adds: *"When I create a new program, it is now possible for me to attach pictures of my tightening, my specific tools or others and to introduce various useful information. We therefore have a kind of ultra-flexible and quick manufacturing file to set up. When I have to reproduce the same parts six months later, I just have to look for the drawing number in my file management and I find all the information I need directly to restart production quickly. All I have to do is print a personalized sheet that we have named "manufacturing sheet" and I have all the necessary information on a single page. We can therefore start the setting up on the machine. As a result, there is also much less work in progress on programming stations..."*

Today, the company has optimized the use of the software to make it a powerful tool. Production has increased drastically and users are delighted with this new way of working. They appreciate the fact that they can contact MW Programmation at any time if they have any questions during programming. The workshop

manager adds: "The postprocessor must be perfect, we do not change anything by hand in the code. If necessary, we can request modifications to MW Programmation's technical support."

What are VOH's expectations to further improve production? "Today, we make very little use of machining styles. I would really like to encourage users to use Alphacam's automation tools. In addition, for standard part series, Alphacam's automation manager would be very useful to us," concludes Bastien Zbinden.

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