



Tomorrow's manufacturing solutions, today

Iowa Company Maintains Machining Center Dominance With Robust Machines & Pallet Changers

It's been said, that in Rock Valley, IA there is more turning work per capita than anywhere else in the country. So when one thinks of Rock Valley, Iowa, you expect to find lathe operations as a dominant source of manufacturing. Not so with Kooima Company... In a town filled with turning work, Kooima has found its niche as a leader in NW Iowa with its machining centers!

This holds especially true with their pair of Okuma MA650 vertical machining centers, equipped with Okuma Japan built automatic pallet changers. Kooima purchased their first MA650 in 2006 as an addition to some older vertical machining centers in production, which were equipped with manual pallet changers. While this helped, Kooima Co. knew there was more that could be gained in efficiency by upgrading to a true automatic pallet changer system. It wasn't long after the machine was installed that the owner of Kooima told us, "We knew this machine was going to be a good machine... We just didn't know it would be this good!" Within the year, Kooima had purchased their second MA650, equipped the same as a twin.

"The MA650 is an extremely powerful and robust vertical that has the ability to handle anything that we throw at it," says Phil Kooima (owner). "Running heavy cuts in steel all day long, this machine has more than proven its worth."

In addition, the Okuma pallet changers have been a

real labor saver. These heavy duty units allow for greater spindle utilization. Initial figures were around 40% efficient without the APC's on their old machines and 70% + with the new machines. The units are designed and manufactured in Japan at Okuma and come into the states pre-tested on the MA650. Because of their robust construction, Kooima is able to put some of the heaviest parts these machines make onto the changer without issue. In speaking with the operators... "They just run, day in and day out, without issue." According to Phil Kooima, "In recent times, the APC equipped verticals have given our horizontal machining centers a run for their money.

The efficiency of the pallet changer machines really helps our bottom line."

When you couple the machines proven ability with the Okuma pallet changer, you get a very productive cell. In fact, Kooima has these twin machines set up and facing each other in a manner

that allows the two operators (twin brothers) to help each other out for even more efficiency. Twin machines for twin brothers making great parts with the best spindle utilization available in a vertical machining center equals great returns for Kooima.

The partnership between Kooima, Hartwig, & Okuma has been a long-standing one. As this partnership looks to the future it is evident that Kooima will continue its dominance in the machining center market.

