



OMEGA Productive Services, Inc.

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SUMMER 2008

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Quote of the Month:

“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.”

- George Carlin



INSTRUMENT CALIBRATION

We at Omega feel it is important to discuss calibration. Calibration is a very important factor in being able to achieve consistent quality at lowest energy use.

Typically for the average piece of equipment, it is necessary to recalibrate once a year, though some manufacturers recommend more or less frequently. Equipment can become less accurate when not serviced regularly, leading to unreliable data.

Equipment calibration can be expensive when large amounts of equipment require yearly service. The equipment can also be unusable for weeks while it is away being calibrated, leaving the company without its most important measurement devices.

Omega, as part of our ISO procedure, devised a way to lower the cost and downtime of calibration. Having accurate and precise instruments is vital to the calibration services Omega provides (Temp\RH\Pressure). Without this, it would be impossible to accurately calibrate the customers’ sensors in the field. With the system Omega has in place, we can assure our customers precise and accurate calibration every time.

Contributed By: William Ringrose: Manufacturing/R&D Manager



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Current Projects

- ❖ During the past quarter Omega has received engineering projects from General Motors, Kirk & Blum, Duckworth and Siemens. Several of these projects are to do with process improvements, and energy optimization.
- ❖ Omega continues to manufacture the AIRSTAT PDA as well as providing repairs and calibration services for older GILL INSTRUMENTS that have been in service for several years.
- ❖ Ongoing service projects include Siemens/Auto alliance, and ACH Milan Plastics, where Omega is involved in monitoring and verification services.

OMEGA – THE FIRST 20 YEARS



As Omega celebrates 20 years in business we pause to reflect on the many services we have been privileged to provide our customers, and the important milestones along the way.

One characteristic stands out in my mind as our guiding principle, that we had a commitment to provide **Service with Integrity**.

Our early work focused on environmental services for Ford, Chrysler and GM for **Paint Transfer Efficiency Testing**. This was always a logistical challenge, and honed our skills for getting tricky work done on site. We had to develop a precision scale for measuring the few pounds of paint added to a 1,000 pound car body or truck. We noticed that many of the paint systems we were testing were not optimized for getting the maximum amount of paint on the job with a uniform film build. This was because the technology at that time did not allow all factors to be properly controlled. Testing showed that the spray booth environment, in particular the air movement, was a huge factor in getting a uniform film build in automatic paint zones.

After several years of research we developed a list of key operating parameters which we found most important for a precise paint job. We advocated for these to be monitored and controlled for consistent results. We started a service plan with several customers to monitor and adjust these key parameters for a robust painting system. We called it our **Integrated Service Plan**. This required a lot of manual data collection and interpretation so we then developed a computer based system which allowed us to dispense with the pencil and reduced the labor involved.

The computer based system became known as the **Omega Airspecs** system. When introduced in 1993 it became possible to manually fine tune the spray booth and oven system from a central control point and to see the results. This in turn led to some important operating cost savings for our customer, many of which were much more significant than we had suspected. We found that operating cost savings in paint, energy, cleaning and filters could pay for the controls in less than one year. One specific version of the Airspecs system even had an expert based computer program to provide the operator clues of possible problems and requiring maintenance.

Since the earliest days our customers have been looking for ways to minimize the **energy consumption of their processes**. To facilitate this work Omega developed a computer based energy use program which allowed modeling and optimization of a customer's facilities. This tool helped Omega evaluate the most value added improvements for an existing customer facility as we could project the results in advance. Omega has now completed upwards of thirty energy saving projects for major manufacturers with an accumulated annual energy savings of more than **\$40 million dollars US at today's fuel costs**.

The need for finer and finer control led us to develop an instrument for monitoring the delicate air balance between booth zones, called the **Omega Airstat**. We manufactured these sensors for several years until a better instrument became available from a firm in England. We became the exclusive USA distributor for these devices known as the **Airstat DX**.

As the Airstat DX became accepted as the industry standard for measuring the delicate air movement in a spray booth we recognized the need for a portable unit capable of measuring air movement in two planes with data logging capability. This led to the development of the **Omega Airstat PDA**, which has been on the market since June 2004, and is used by many automotive manufacturers and their service companies.

Our company has always been focused on continual development and improvement of our customer's processes. For this reason, Omega has had many development projects which were often lead by our younger engineers so they could gain experience. Many of these young engineers were part of our co-op engineering program with **GMI and later Kettering University**. Omega has graduated fourteen co-op engineers in mechanical, electrical, industrial and computer engineering.

We learned from our customers the importance of having an effective quality management system. We started with Total Quality Management in the early 1990's and moved on to become **ISO 9001:2000 Registered** in July 2002. Our Quality Management system has helped Omega to produce consistent value added services for our customers over the years.

Our mission statement sums up our attitude to business:

To provide paint system process improvement services through continual improvement of our Quality management System to enhance our customer's satisfaction of services provided; on time, on budget, every time.

Contributed by: Max Carthew/Founder and President

BRAGGING CORNER



Jessica (Carthew) and Jeremy DeMink have a new baby to adore and enjoy. Siena Keala arrived early on June 3rd 2008, and has charmed all around her. Max and Annick have still not quite floated back to earth.



Team MOOB, an adult hockey team at Troy Sport Center, recently captured the C division Championship after posting an undefeated season. Kevin Dunbar manages, coaches and plays for this team.



Bill Evans is one of our new Kettering co-op students. His major is Electrical Engineering. He recently graduated from Brandon High School. He loves baseball and watching college sports. He is very excited to be a part of the team at OMEGA.

Corey Box graduated from Lamphere High School in Madison Heights, Michigan. He is a Kettering co-op student majoring in Electrical Engineering. He frequently camps with his family and friends. He is interested in watching and playing a wide variety of sports.

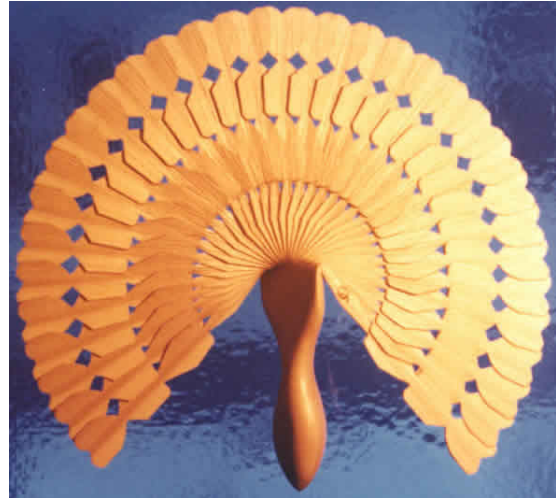


During Kevin and Miki's recent trip in June to Malta for a family wedding, Kevin and Miki got engaged! There is no date set for the wedding yet but the couple looks forward to a bright future together.

Mich - Again



Cedar Fans of Michigan



<http://users.netonecom.net/~vanantg/gallery.html>

Cedar fan carving has long been a part of the folk heritage of several countries in the world, but it was eminently practiced in Scandinavia, where a whittler's art of carving a fan from a single block of wood was – still is – especially appreciated. These extraordinary objects are so ornate, so intricately patterned that one wonders at the talented hands that created them.

The lumbering boom in the Upper Great Lakes attracted Scandinavian immigrants to find work in the lumber camps. They worked their way into Michigan and found employment logging off the virgin pines and hardwoods of our forests.

These men toiled hard, and during their leisure time their hand automatically remembered the ingrained traditions of their far way country. Their fingers caressed, whittled and carved blocks of soft pine and cedar, fashioning beautiful fans and toys. Excavations from old logging areas and regions with a concentration of Scandinavians have unearthed many of these artifacts.

This form of woodcarving has been passed on from generation to generation and is still practiced today by a handful of tradition bearers.

Contributed By: Annick Hivert-Carthew



OMEGA Productive Services, Inc.
MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROVIDE PAINT SYSTEM – PROCESS IMPROVEMENT SERVICES THROUGH CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENTS OF OUR QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, TO ENHANCE OUR CUSTOMERS' SATISFACTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED; ON TIME, ON BUDGET, EVERY TIME.

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Islanders

“Those who are born on islands know the sound
Of spindrift breaking and the drift of foam,
The sight of white-keeled luggers sailing home,
The cry of gulls at daybreak ocean bound.
Always a wind is singing in their ears,
Always they lean to catch a drift of spray,
Or reef-blown water tossing in a bay,
Or drift of ebb tide around salty piers.



Those who are born on islands must remain
Aware of ships and anchors and tall spars,
Of schooners sailing by beneath the stars,
Of buoys sounding in the dripping rain;
Their thoughts are not of city streets or walls,
But how the full tide lifts and how it falls.

-Harold Vinal