

# Innovative Cutting

## Antech Wire EDM

**A**ntech Wire EDM Inc. is a high precision wire EDM and machining establishment, located in Oshawa, Ontario. Antech was founded in 1996 and continues to grow at a rapid pace.



At first glance, it is not hard to see what sets Antech apart from the others. With their advanced state-of-the-art equipment, running from wire EDM machining centers to a support machine shop, welding department and their newest piece of high-tech equipment, the OMAX 55100 waterjet machining center, allows Antech to be a very versatile shop.

"Antech doesn't believe in second best," said Robert Alves president and company founder. "The reason I looked at waterjet was because of the diversity it would bring to the business. By adding it to our floor we can open the company to more areas."

Since 1996, Antech has invested in the most modern methods for CNC precision machining backed up with an experienced and dedicated staff that has allowed them to advance to their current status. "Our experience and commitment to quality and to our customers have made us who we are today," added Alves.

They have the full capabilities of part production as well as on-site inspection and can now complement it even further with their newly acquired abrasive waterjet system.

Antech services a wide variety of markets including automotive, aerospace, advertising, medical and tool shops to mention just a few. This means while innovation is the key at Antech, versatility is also important and the waterjet provides this by being able to accurately cut a wide variety of materials

up to eight inches thick. These materials include glass, wood, rubber, metal, granite, plastics, heat-sensitive materials and many more.

Some advantages to using a waterjet that Antech has found are the fact that there is no mechanical stress, no temperature affected areas, the machine has the ability to cut virtually any profile, reducing the need for supplementary machining due to the satin finish, clean cutting method without the use of oils and other products, while maintaining precision and accuracy.

Abrasive waterjet machining is ideal for short run production, just in time manufacturing, tooling and prototype part development.

"We are usually running in the inch to two inch range of materials and seem to be doing a lot of tool steel for die components like die holders and stripper plates, as well as glass and other materials that are very difficult to cut using other processes," explained Alves.

Despite its versatility, Alves said that abrasive waterjet has been relatively easy to learn.

"In fact," he said, "the learning curve to operate this machine is far shorter than most other CNC machines, allowing Antech to competitively operate its machine in the first week."

Antech has found that the abrasive waterjet complements its other machines quite nicely. Using standard PC and common file formats, it has been smoothly integrated into their existing computer network allowing quoting and emailing of their part files quite easily.

"We consider it to be one of the best investments our company has made," said Alves.

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