

"The team John has gives us all the support we need and the facility is only 45 minutes away from us. Any time we've had any issues, they've been right on top of it. Nothing is ever perfect and we've had some software glitches but that's not a GF Machining issue, it has to do with our CAM software because we're now asking the software to do things it wasn't designed for and our supplier is working with us on that."

While Tim and Wendy Middlehurst purchased the machines to meet specific customer needs, the Mikron's flexibility has helped Hi-Quality Carbide Tooling expand into new markets.

"We're machining finished machine components and ammunition support tooling," says Tim Middlehurst. "We're now able to do the jobs that were no-quotes before. The surface finishes right off the milling machine are impressive, more so than what we had anticipated."

Hi-Quality Carbide Tooling's 743 sq m (8,000 sq ft) shop is now reaping the rewards of its investments. Tim Middlehurst says they're now getting work from competitors because of the quality of sink EDM and increasing business for parts requiring precision milling.

The company has witnessed steady growth in recent years, says Wendy Middlehurst, and recently purchased a wire EDM machine, the GF Machining Solutions CUT P550.

"We do not have room for more machines, so as of late, we've been replacing older machines with newer ones. The next step will be an expansion with this existing facility which is something that may happen within the next two to five years. What we've learned is that you cannot grow without investment in your business so we've decided to invest and we'll see where we go from there."

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grooves, chamfers, phonographic finishes and recesses of differing sizes

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