



PEM CUTS CYCLE TIME IN HALF WITH THE HERA 500

CASE STUDY

INTRO

Power Engineering and Manufacturing (PEM), a family-owned custom gearbox manufacturer in Waterloo, Iowa, partnered with Helios Gear Products to install a new Hera 500 CNC gear hobbing machine. On the first part run on the new machine, cycle time dropped by half, and PEM expects even bigger cuts as operators get more out of it.

OVERVIEW

PEM builds custom, one-off gearboxes for customers who can't find what they need on a shelf, including the Department of Defense, mining, and heavy industry. Their existing hobber, an older CNC machine already rebuilt once, kept breaking down. PEM evaluated nine manufacturers, narrowed the field to two, and chose the Hera 500. Helios's service engineer installed and commissioned it in two days. PEM was trained and cutting production parts within five days and had fully caught up on their backlog within three weeks. Cycle time dropped by half on the very first part they ran. Job to job since, the team has logged up to 50% faster cycles as the crew puts more hours behind the controls. PEM already projects 30% more production capacity without adding staff, with room to grow as they discover new efficiencies.

COMMON APPLICATIONS

- Spur gears
- Helical gears
- Custom, Large-Diameter Gearbox Components



Hera 500

2.1 DP

Max Pitch Rating

25.98"

Max Part Diameter

7

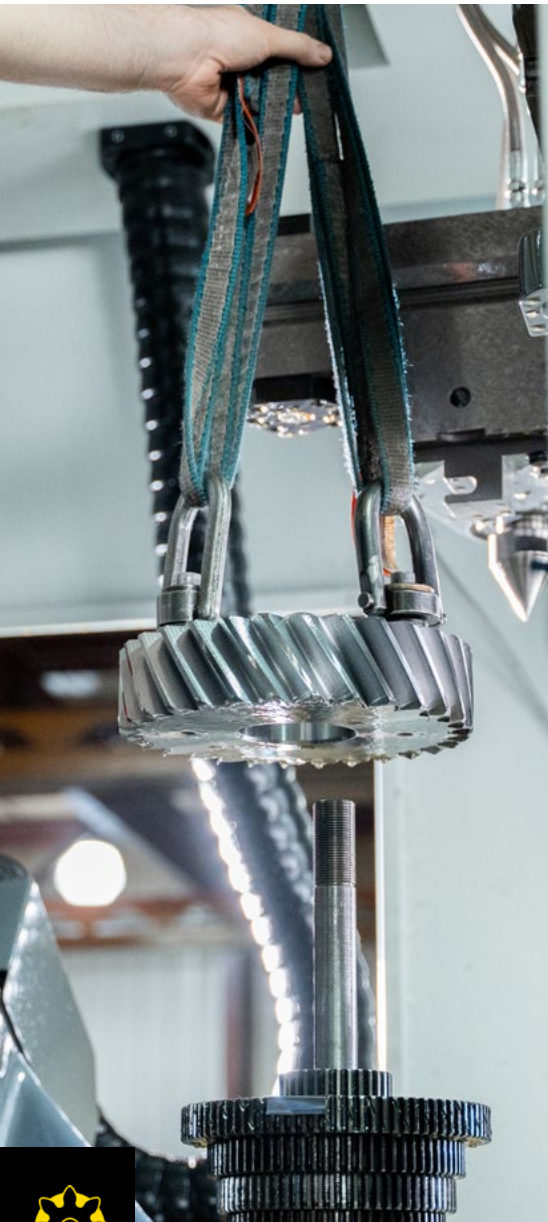
CNC Axes

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

As PEM has run new part types through the Hera 500, Helios's service engineer has come back several times to help create machine and programming customizations, fine-tuning the machine to PEM's specialized workflows. The team can usually reach him within the hour by text or call, and if that's not enough, he'll send a video walkthrough or just show up. When one part needed extra clearance, he was on-site within a week to adjust the setup and program it in. For a shop where every gearbox is a bespoke, one-of-a-kind build with no backup inventory, that kind of support matters as much as the machine itself.

It's hard to tell sometimes that it was hobbled and not ground. I used to be able to just walk by and know which it was. Now I actually have to stop and look a little closer. Very solid, very quiet.

GABE RUBINO,
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