

CETEC ERP

Defense: Composites & Aerostructures

CASE STUDY: HONEYCOMB COMPANY OF AMERICA, SARASOTA FL



"There is a specific appeal to the **DoD aerospace community** with Cetec ERP. This system pulls back the curtains on the often esoteric world of ERP systems.

Lot/Serial data for the sub-tier manufactured components is absolutely critical for any AS-9102 First Article package submission. **Previously, this could often take days for complex assemblies. It takes us less than an hour with Cetec ERP.**"

-Joshua Foraker, Engineering Manager at HCOA Inc.

ABOUT HONEYCOMB COMPANY OF AMERICA

Since 1948, Honeycomb Company Of America (HCOA) has been in business manufacturing build-to-print high quality aerostructures, and is a recognized leader in the manufacture of bonded assemblies for the aerospace industry. HCOA has developed in-house capabilities to support Nadcap Accredited metal processing. HCOA now offers a variety of Nadcap metal processing standards as a service to the aerospace industry, and can also handle outsourced Nadcap AMS 2770 and BAC 5602 heat treat needs.



HCOA runs two manufacturing facilities containing 15 buildings. In Sarasota, FL, 150,000 Sq Ft of engineering and manufacturing space sits on 12 acres of land, with total outfitting for component assembly and manufacture of metal-to-metal, metal-to-honeycomb, and honeycomb to epoxy-composite assemblies. HCOA Pensacola, on the other hand, sits on 26 acres of land. The 160,000 Sq Ft space houses four clean rooms, bonding facilities, paint, fabrication, carpentry, and welding shops, and more. The Pensacola facility is equipped to handle very large aerostructures such as those on the C-5 Galaxy aircraft.

CAPABILITIES

Honeycomb Company of America maintains International Quality Standards and Certifications of the highest level, including ITAR, AS9100D and ISO 9001:2015, and Nadcap certification for Chemical Processing, Heat Treatment, and NonDestructive Testing.

HCOA runs a host of in house capabilities enabling them to enforce the strictest standards and highest possible quality to Aerospace and Defense customers, including Pyro Drop Ovens, two phosphoric acid anodizing lines for 250 and 350 degree bonding, and extensive manufacturing and process engineering expertise on staff.

The combination four autoclaves, and various vacuum-equipped bonding ovens affords a tremendous versatility in equipment, allowing them to handle a wide range of structural bonding situations. Parts currently being produced include flat honeycomb panels of various sizes, metal-to-metal bonded assemblies, single and double contoured sandwich structure, bulkheads, floor panels, wing panels as well as fuselage sections. Their clean room meets OEM requirements controlling temperature, humidity and particle count.



ERP SELECTION PROCESS

As a highly-regulated aerospace manufacturing company specializing in government contracted projects, HCOA needed a manufacturing solution that would first and foremost offer greater means for traceability and quality control, in addition to a fully-integrated cost accounting suite.

They searched for a full-suite system that would provide visibility to all of these areas in a highly-detailed manner, allowing for greater interdepartmental communication and correspondent increased efficiency and quality.

After reviewing extensive other ERP systems, and walking through a transparent and vetted process with the Cetec ERP team, **Honeycomb selected Cetec ERP with an objective to achieve higher levels of quality and efficiency in a highly-regulated industry**, leveraging the modern technology and visibility provided to all of their manufacturing departments by the web-based Cetec ERP platform.

"My favorite aspect of Cetec ERP is the web-based interface. It's incredibly convenient to use various hardware platforms (PC, tablet, phone) and various OS systems (Linux, Windows, etc) with equal ease of access. This feature alone has dramatically improved the communication between our departments.

When our Sarasota warehouse is seeing a trending concern on expiration dates for a certain selection of items, they simply message me the web address and I am instantly viewing the exact same report (even including the various search filters that were applied). After dealing with SAP for several years (which requires a procedural path of menu selections to get to any specific screen or list), this level of communication was a welcome relief."

- Joshua Foraker, Engineering Manager at HCOA Inc.

IMPLEMENTATION & PROJECT SUCCESS

HCOA was able to go live with Cetec ERP in all departments at both Sarasota and Pensacola locations in an implementation project spanning just four months. Modern cloud technology and strategic project planning led by our team of ERP and manufacturing industry experts minimized the business disruption typical of switching ERP systems, mitigating risks and lags in production.

Once implemented, **Cetec ERP provided complete visibility to the HCOA shop floors, allowing all production departments interacting with the software to provide accurate information to the management team.** HCOA is now able to track goods from receipt to finished product through all of their production operations, with detailed software-driven quality control measures built-in along the way. **Job costing and quoting are now accurately determined** with all HCOA transactions, internal and external, automatically recorded in real time, and they correspond with the integrated accounting suite, with no manual link-up required.

"For our particular implementation, Cetec ERP has brought about a great deal of change with proactive planning in our company. Prior to this system, we relied heavily on tribal knowledge when planning material deliveries, expected WIP time, queue staging delays, and general MRP-type functions.

*While I realize this is the expected result when transitioning to any ERP software, the ease of accessibility within Cetec ERP allowed for a relatively painless **culture change**. The intuitive nature with which the various modules relate to one another allowed ALL of our employees to grow and adapt easily to the new MRP-based functionality for scheduling and purchasing. This system really does a wonderful job of pulling back the curtains on the often esoteric world of ERP systems."*

- Joshua Foraker, Engineering Manager at HCOA Inc.