

CERTIFICATION TRANSFORMS COMPANY

ABOUT GULF SOUTH MACHINE, INC. Gulf South Machine (GSM), located 45 miles north of New Orleans in Ponchatoula, Louisiana, is primarily in the business of precision CNC production machining, assembly, and manufacturing services. The company also offers specialty services, including turn-key manufacturing, custom fixture design, and assembly. GSM began operations in 1969 and has an experienced staff of close to 30 individuals, including degreed engineers, certified CNC programmers, certified quality control inspectors, and incumbent workers in training.

THE CHALLENGE. When GSM contacted the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana (MEPOL), part of the MEP National Network™, regarding possible USDA grant eligibility, the company also expressed interest in obtaining ISO 9001:2008 certification. "With the downturn in the oil and gas industry, our goal was to incorporate ways to diversify and market ourselves to a variety of different industries," explained GSM Quality Manager, Kenny Adams. "One of our objectives was to have our Quality Management System in accordance with the ISO 9001:2008 standard."

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Upon approval of the USDA grant, MEPOL Project Director Rebecca Scherff contracted with the third-party consulting firm TQM Systems to begin reviewing GSM's existing documents for compliance with the ISO 9001 standard. The training, which took place in Ponchatoula, consisted of an extensive compliance process that GSM completed over a span of several months. TQM Systems reviewed GSM's existing quality manual, quality operating procedures, and other documentation for compliance and documentation gaps, and consulted with Adams regarding system development compliance.

All GSM employees received ISO training and participated in Internal Auditor training to prepare for a two-day internal audit. The company developed and prepared a report for the audit and passed the certification process to achieve full ISO 9001 compliance. GSM's company culture exemplifies teamwork and pride; their joint effort made the ISO certification possible. The certification positioned GSM to create new positions and rehire five employees. The guarantee of quality has helped the company gain new customers and enter into new markets, and GSM anticipates rapid growth as a result of the certification.

"MEPOL was an intricate partner in assisting Gulf South Machine in achieving our certification through correspondence, meetings, suggesting grants, and hiring a consulting firm to aid in the preparation process. The results of having a certified Quality Management System have proven to be valuable in obtaining new work."

-Kenny Adams, Quality Manager

RESULTS



Increased sales by **\$250,000**



Created **6** new jobs, rehired **5** employees



Cost savings of **\$4,400**

CONTACT US



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