

Q&A with Richard Nelms, JRC / Halliburton

Charge Manufacturing Facility - Alvarado, Texas

Do you recall why you chose Hyundai-Wia machines?

"I have had prior experience running an (Hyundai-Wia) SKT250 and remembered the reliability of the machine. I have run many CNC style machines from Mori Seiki to Leadwell and out of them all I found the Kia to be by far the biggest bang for the buck. My largest obstacle was convincing a Mori dedicated facility to trust in Kia (WIA)."

What do you like most about the Hyundai-Wia VX400 VMC?

"I could not believe how well built the machine was. It was the smallest VMC in the Kia (WIA) line up, but still built on a massive hunk of iron. I have cut everything for Inconel to Teflon and never had pause from the machine. The side mounted tool changer was also a nice surprise. I have always hated the umbrella style changers. My only real regret was waiting as long as I did. My suggestion to anyone buying a (Hyundai-Wia) VX400 would be to definitely get a chip conveyor for the machine. Shoveling chips out is more difficult than I had originally planned."

What do you like most about the Hyundai-Wia SKT160A and 160C turning centers?

"The (Hyundai-Wia) SKT160C is unbelievably versatile. With the upgraded chuck and larger through hole I can cut just about anything. I was concerned with the size of the machine at first thinking that I would have to lighten up my chip loads to accommodate. Surprisingly enough I have no problem taking .12-.15 per side without slowing the spindle. The (Hyundai-Wia) SKT160A is nice with the larger carousel, but for the money I would definitely get the SKT160C. The massive coolant pump is also a nice perk. It came standard with a pump that's twice the size as the one on our Mazak and that machine is almost three times the size."

How have the machines operated?

"Better than expected. I was concerned that without the larger price and Mori name I would have to watch close on tolerance. I have no problem holding .0002 all day long. It was a nice relief. At first I had a lot of people that have been Mori faithful for decades hoping the Kia would fall flat on its face. Their "I told you so looks" have since then faded."

How has the service and support been on the Hyundai-Wia machines?

"Great considering I haven't needed any. No service to report on any of the machines and support is always there. The next conversation will probably for an upgrade C axis, not a machine malfunction."

Would you buy Hyundai-Wia again?

"The real question is when we'll buy another Kia (Hyundai-Wia). I know that I have not had any negative output, but I just don't have any to report. It was a gamble that paid off. When you work as a tooling support shop for a million dollar company you have to research the right fit for the application. However, our applications are vast. We cut everything from hardened tool steels and Inconel to Beryllium Copper and Nickel Bronze. We did a lot of research, from Haas and Mazak to Mori. Pound for pound the Kia (Hyundai-Wia) was just more machine. I hope to convince other entities throughout Halliburton to explore Kia (Hyundai-Wia). I feel that is only a matter of time."