

OEM Fabricators, Inc.

A Low to Medium-Volume Fabricator Adds Automation

OEM Fabricators, Inc., a contract metal fabricator with locations in the United States recently expanded its robotic welding capacity to serve its rail customers.

Initially, a volatile customer segment in the oil and gas market was the target for the first robotic welder. *“The steep increases and decreases in work made it difficult to plan the workload and give stability to our workforce,”* said Christian Gausman – Director of Strategic Initiatives. Since the initial robot in 2013, OEM Fabricators, Inc. has increased its number of robotic welders and capacity to serve its passenger train and rail maintenance customers, recently adding two additional units. Having previously tried robotic welders in 2003, OEM found the programming technology did not offer quick enough programming and setup for its low to medium-volume production. Improved programming capabilities allow OEM to utilise these

tools on lower to medium-volume production which increases productivity, protects the workforce from swings in demand and provides more repetitive production and improved quality.

Next steps towards automation for OEM Fabricator’s, Inc. include a collaborative robot (cobot) integrated with a machining centre. *“We expect to take delivery of the cobot in May and will be ready to implement the machine shortly afterwards. We’re excited to incorporate these tools into our production and better serve our passenger train and rail maintenance,”* said Gausman.

About:

Founded in 1986, OEM Fabricators, Inc. built its business by providing contract manufacturing services for local original equipment manufacturers in the Midwestern United States. As a result of OEM Fabricators’ high





levels of service and quality, the company spent its first twenty-five years experiencing rapid growth in its customer base throughout the United States and Canada. In 2012, OEM became EN 15085-2 Class 1-certified and has used this certification to support North American and European manufacturers in the rail maintenance industry and develop into a key supplier in the passenger rail industry.

Services Offered:

OEM Fabricators, Inc. has a team of highly skilled craftsmen and women building products for leading manufacturers in the oil and gas, construction, mining, rail maintenance and passenger rail industries. OEM Fabricators provides contract-manufacturing services including design assistance, fabrication, welding, machining, painting and light assembly. The company's strength is complex small to medium-sized components. Examples of products built are structural frames, work head components, underframes, bogey frames, coupler components, tanks and assorted large battery/hydraulic/electrical boxes.

EN Welding:

In 2012, after serving the rail maintenance industry for twenty years, OEM Fabricators became EN-certified to build components for a customer exporting rail maintenance machines from the United States to Europe. Since that project, OEM Fabricators' highly

skilled team of welders and weld engineers have completed numerous projects either to EN standards for export to Europe, or for European manufacturers setting up localised production in the United States to service the North American market and meet Buy America requirements. Today, OEM Fabricators is one of a small number of contract manufacturers in the United States offering EN 15085-2 Class 1-certified welding.

With over twenty years of experience working with European companies, OEM Fabricators is one of a few full-service (machining, welding and painting) suppliers in the United States with a deep understanding of European material grades, tolerance standards, weld standards and testing standards. OEM Fabricators' ability to produce product according to the original European market design, as well as help its customers navigate through the differences between standards, reduces the learning curve and serves as a valuable asset for its customers.



QUALITY COMPONENTS DELIVERED ON TIME.



EN-15085-2 CL1
ISO 3834
AWS D1.1, 1.6

FOR OVER 35 YEARS OEM FABRICATORS, INC. HAS OFFERED FABRICATION, WELDING, MACHINING, AND PAINTING SERVICES FOR LEADING RAIL MAINTENANCE AND PASSENGER RAIL MANUFACTURERS.

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