

Turn to the Unusual

From the Source

Barry Wilson, owner of Mid-South Machine & Supply, Cookeville, Tennessee, knows about machining exotics. On any given day, Mid-South machines Hastelloy C-276, Monel M-400, Inconel 625, Nitronic 50 and titanium.

Profits from jobs involving exotics are usually higher. Wilson said they can generally be quoted 10 to 20 percent higher, but because the speeds and feeds Mid-South uses to machine exotics are similar to other workpiece materials, the machine time is not substantially more.

He credits the people on the shop floor who make it happen. "They are not afraid of trying new things and pushing their knowledge and tooling to the limit," Wilson said.

"We can turn Monel M-400 at 650 sfm, a 0.080" DOC and 0.013 ipr, and Inconel 625 at 400 sfm, a 0.030" DOC and 0.006 ipr."

One project for Mid-South is machining 8-1-1 titanium wheels for radio-controlled trucks from A.I. Designz, also of Cookeville. A.I.'s Jason Beaty said the company designed the wheels out of titanium because no one else offers them. Choosing a machine shop that was capable of processing this type of alloy gave A.I. Designz the assurance to begin promoting its product.