

## The Unlimited Benefits of Done In One

*Multi-tasking approaches demand new thinking*

Survival requires effort, concentration, and a plan. Most manufacturers regularly upgrade equipment and tooling when such opportunities present themselves. These companies concentrate significant time and effort supporting all the advances possible from a new piece of equipment, when the real opportunity is to consider process change. It's the difference between "How can I cut this part faster?" versus "Is there a way to cut it that eliminates not only multiple setups and multiple machines, but entire steps?"

### From Days to Hours

For example, consider the advantage of processing an electrical generator component that would normally require an NC lathe, vertical machining center, horizontal machining center, and vertical with special features, on a single multi-tasking machine in a single setup. Besides the change in production throughput from 47 hours to 6 hours and 43 minutes (600%+ improvement), consider the benefits this change brings to numerous aspects of a manufacturing operation:

- **Profit.** Cash flow considerably improves.
- **Lower Direct Expenses.** Machines are reduced from four to one, fixtures from six to one.
- **Lower Overhead.** Operators and attendant benefits are reduced from four to one.

- **Part Quality.** Going from six setups to one greatly reduces accumulated precision error.
- **Lower Indirect Expenses.** Having a single machine uses floor space more effectively, environmental impact is reduced, and movement of material through the plant is made more efficient.

Such thinking enables a company to change from forecast-based production to on-demand manufacturing while realizing significant reductions in in-process inventory.

Every phase of the business improves.