

Offshore manufacturing solutions from a UK company: The Best of Both Worlds?

With production facilities in both the UK and Central Europe, JJS Electronics is offering its customers something entirely new; namely, the 'best of both worlds'. By creating a dual manufacturing environment, JJS has combined the convenience and security of working with a UK company in terms of locally based customer service, engineering, NPI and manufacturing, with the benefits of additional manufacturing facilities in a lower cost region.

Working for customers in sectors including industrial, medical, packaging, transportation, scientific and communications, JJS has built an excellent reputation for PCBA, electrical and mechanical product assembly, together with system-level integration and mechatronics capabilities. This capacity is further reinforced by robust material procurement, inventory management, component engineering and test services; all carried out by the company's highly qualified and experienced specialist teams.

An advanced facility based in Lutterworth, England housed in 40,000 sq ft of production space is equipped to handle a wide range of services including New Product Introduction, Design-for-Manufacture, Design-for-Test, value engineering, conventional and surface mount PCB assembly, control & panel wiring, full systems integration, electromechanical assemblies and cable harnesses. However, what separates JJS from other EMS companies is a further 40,000 sq ft facility to provide these services based in Chomutov, Czech Republic.

Recently celebrating its first year as part of the Paragon Electronics group of companies, JJS is currently enjoying the enhanced corporate stability offered by this move. With annual revenues now in excess of £30m, Paragon is rapidly becoming a major force in the UK EMS market, and identifies JJS as an important part of its portfolio, as Paragon Group Managing Director John Mayes explains: "We're always looking for new ways to help our customers compete more effectively in their respective markets and JJS does exactly this, providing a competitive and compelling service offer."

He continues: "The JJS facility in the Czech Republic is proving extremely valuable in this regard, especially with the real cost of manufacturing in more traditional offshore markets, such as China, rising rapidly. JJS customers enjoy all the customer service, account management and manufacturing capabilities of a UK company backed by a £30m group of electronics specialists, combined with the cost benefits of an additional manufacturing facility in this lower cost region for the best of both worlds."

The Czech facility is fully equipped to handle a wide range of production requirements, providing JJS customers with a proven route to 'offshore' manufacturing. The combined manufacturing solution means that once UK-based engineering and manufacturing specialists have gained a full understanding of a new project or product and full supporting manufacturing documentation has been developed, customers can choose to transition final assembly to the Czech Republic to harness the advantages of manufacturing in a lower cost region.

Looking ahead, the team at JJS are certainly not prepared to stand still. Having recently conducted an in-depth review of its facilities, production equipment and operating procedures in conjunction with key supplier MYDATA, JJS has taken steps to increase its surface mount PCBA production capacity early in 2009 and implement valuable structural improvements. In fact, the recent initiative led to the purchase of a new MY100DX-14 which will shortly be installed in-line with one of its existing MY15s.

John concludes: "Our investment programme at JJS, and indeed across the Group, is part of our insatiable desire to continually improve our processes and services. We cannot afford to stand still, because we know that our customers won't. We constantly strive to stay one step ahead of our customers' requirements, ensuring that everything is in place to deliver exactly what they need, when they need it. By offering robust, cost-effective and high quality PCB, cable, system, rack and non-electronics based precision mechanical assembly and test services, from our dual facilities, we are proving that JJS customers really can have their cake and eat it!"

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