

Continental Diamond Tool Corporation Customer Spotlight



The Background

Continental Diamond Tool Corporation, also known as CDT, is a leading abrasives manufacturer specializing in electroplated, resin-bond, metal-bond, vitrified, diamond rotary dressers. Located in New Haven, Indiana, the company continually pushes the envelope to develop innovative work and help customers overcome their greatest challenges.

The Situation: Building an R&D Grinding Lab

An R&D lab has been a part of CDT's strategic vision for many years. Such a place would allow CDT to in-source product development activities, effectively delivering greater scientific knowledge and experimental agility while shortening product development lifecycles.

When COVID hit, CDT used the worldwide business slow-down as a chance to tackle the R&D lab's development. CDT President Nick Viggiano tasked the engineering department – which includes all product-line managers and all applications staff – with finding a machine to grind customers' parts in real-world applications on real-world production machines, and to develop an optimal process and product.

The Solution: WALTER Repeatability and Versatility

The best product development is a deliberate, iterative process of research and experimentation with data at its core. New products must address customer requirements (in this case, greatly shortened cycle times) and accommodate changing market conditions.

CDT chose the WALTER HELITRONIC POWER 400 because, in addition to being rigid, repeatable and stable, it is also versatile. The WALTER met all the criteria expected for a truly lab-quality machine.

"We are testing the next generation of metal hybrid technology," said applications engineer Harrison Sheldon. "We want to do all our research ahead of time, measuring how the wheel cuts, wears and workpiece quality allows us to identify optimal grinding parameters from our products to provide value to customer applications."



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The WALTER was chosen in no small part because it's backed by UNITED GRINDING. Engineering Manager Jeffrey Wirth explained, "UNITED GRINDING technology, reputation, product reliability, service and support are excellent. These were important criteria in selecting the WALTER grinder, specifically because a lab grinding machine requires higher levels of support than a production machine."

The Outcome: Prepared for the Future during Challenging Times

While other companies approached the past fiscal year with great caution, 2020 was CDT's biggest "forward-thinking" capital investment year. Investing in the R&D lab has put the company in a market position to hit the ground running during the post-pandemic bounceback.

Wirth called the lab a "watershed moment in the history of the company," made possible in part by WALTER and UNITED GRINDING. "From the purchasing to the install, everything was smooth," said Viggiano. "I couldn't be happier."

