

Portsmouth Aviation

Case study



Working with BSOL to Ensure Engineering Excellence

Portsmouth Aviation is a Small Medium Enterprise (SME) engineering company based in Portsmouth, UK. This year the business is flying high as it celebrates 90 years of delivering quality engineering solutions, using a complete range of manufacturing methods. A family-owned company, they are in their third generation of Escott, with Managing Director Simon Escott at the helm.

The mechanical engineer specialists at Portsmouth Aviation export engineering solutions across a range of commercial as well as defence sectors, including the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. They produce the latest advanced equipment from attack protection and cutting-edge transport technology, to water purification solutions.

Portsmouth Aviation has over 220 employees and operates globally. With customers in countries including China and the Middle East, it is essential their goods and services are world class.

With expertise in all areas of mechanical engineering, the highly skilled teams at Portsmouth Aviation are able to offer an 'under-one-roof' service. Their in-house capabilities start at the early design and development stage using the CADMID process, through to the manufacturing of the product. All quality and management processes are underpinned by the appropriate standards.

Overseeing this single source of supply are experienced management teams, who not only look at the strength of the product but also all safety aspects. This degree of precision ensures there are no hazardous risks, not only to the person using it, but also to the wider community and environment as a whole.

Why BSOL Works For Them

Ben Baker is project co-ordinator and manages the British Standards Online account. His responsibilities include overseeing how the standards are distributed within the organisation.

Ben explains how essential it is for Portsmouth Aviation to demonstrate to their customers that they comply to the best standards possible in such a specialist field: "Every area of the company uses standards in one form or another." Therefore having BSOL is essential, the national standards body of the United Kingdom, as a constant reference is essential in giving all their customers complete trust and confidence in everything they produce.

When working in an area with product sensitivity, getting it right is the only way. Ben makes it clear how important this assurance is:

"The fact we know that BSOL have the latest standards and provide us with the correct information means that we don't even have to question the source of our information."

Standards and the Supply Chain

Ben emphasizes how standards are essential for everyone involved in the supply chain: "A lot of standards we use are built into our contracts." These contractual terms ensure that throughout the manufacturing, each product achieves a specific standard. Through Portsmouth Aviation's inspection process comes the assurance that all its suppliers will also deliver conforming products to them.

Standards and Portsmouth Aviation, an Essential Partnership

Standards are a vital part of Portsmouth Aviation: "If we didn't use standards, it sounds very dramatic, but we wouldn't be able to trade. Because of the industry we are in, we have such tight contractual requirements that we have to apply high standards."

"Without using BSOL, we wouldn't be able to deliver the contracts that we're signed up to and wouldn't be able to get any further work in."

Portsmouth Aviation have used hundreds of standards over the years, which cover many different functions and types of products. To fulfil this level of commitment they have relied on BSI as their resource for nearly a decade.

Standards in Other Areas of the Business

The use of standards isn't just related to the company's products. Portsmouth Aviation subscribe to BS 9100 as their quality management accreditation for both defence and commercial customers. In addition, the company uses ISO 9001 including MPAS and ISO 14001 throughout the engineering process to demonstrate their ability to consistently provide a service that meets customer and regulatory requirements. Ben also talks about other areas that benefit their business: "We have security standards and IT standards that we adhere to, and other various standards that we use as part of our business practices to ensure that we are operating in the correct way."

BSOL Driving Efficiency

BSOL allows immediate access to everything they need:

"It would have been that we got them ad hoc and we'd have to request them from customers. Now we have our own subscription we can pick them ourselves."

Subscribers can access packages of standards that are tailored to their needs. Portsmouth Aviation use the *custom collections* package which gives direct access to the standards they need, with a single reference point. This saves time and is overall a more cost-efficient way to run the business.

With so many standards necessary for their products, there is no doubt that Portsmouth Aviation are operating at the highest level possible. Ben is completely satisfied that they conduct all aspects of their company processes in the correct way, and concludes that from the conceptional design, all the way through to dispatch:

"It's an easy way to find standards quickly. We know that the database is wide and we know we can get the standards we require."



Join Portsmouth Aviation and find out how
BSOL can support your business.

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