

Success Story



SupplyPoint® is a web-enabled proprietary database designed to help small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) expand their business by assisting them in the quote submission process. The program works by matching your company's profile with the quote requirements. Currently, more than 6,500 SMEs are registered in SupplyPoint.®

SupplyPoint® is ready to assist the small manufacturer to access the power of The Center for Supply Chain Integration and Risk Management.

Humvee Keyboard Covers Provide Solution for Troops *SupplyPoint® Develops a Virtual Second Source*

Requirement:

Computer keyboards onboard Humvee vehicles serving in Iraq have been subject to cracking and malfunction when exposed to the considerable shock and vibration in the rough desert terrain.

Solution:

A sturdy aluminum keyboard reinforcement cover was designed and built by a SupplyPoint® network shop in Florida. The keyboard cover assembly is made up of a main member part that fits over the original keyboard and 5 supporting member parts. The keyboard cover assembly was produced on a Mazak model FJV-20 horizontal CNC mill equipped with a Mazatrol 640 Fusion controller. Engineers at the Florida shop developed fixtures, a process plan and CNC codes for each part in the assembly that are specific to this CNC machine and controller.

SupplyPoint® developed a virtual second source for the keyboard cover parts by identifying a CNC shop in the SupplyPoint® network database located in Maine. This shop has similar technical capabilities, but utilizes CNC equipment of a different make, model and configuration. Specifically, the Maine shop uses a Toyoda model AF-1000 vertical mill equipped with a Fanuc 18i controller. SupplyPoint® engineers converted the CNC codes specific to the Florida machines into codes that are compatible to run on the Maine machines. The converted CNC codes and all supporting technical data were transferred via e-mail. The Maine shop successfully dropped the converted CNC codes into the machines and built a small test run by simply running the provided CNC codes and following the process provided by SupplyPoint®.

Independent First Article test results verified that the parts produced in the Maine shop were built to the original specifications and were interchangeable with the parts produced by the Florida shop.