

## OKW is OK with JAVELIN



### OKW Enclosures

JAVELIN is a flexible, scalable and intelligent production planning and control system offering advanced functionality and value in the key areas of manufacturing and assembly. JAVELIN allows SME organisations to successfully compete in difficult economic and market conditions, through direct productivity improvements and lower IT infrastructure costs.

“We don’t do anything, anywhere in the business, without it being on JAVELIN.” Those are the words of Ian Cox, Operations Director of the UK’s leading electronics housing manufacturer, OKW Enclosures Ltd.

The company produces metal housings for electronics, as well as importing and distributing plastic enclosures for four other brands, all under the name of German moulding company OKW. As well as manufacturing lightweight metal cases, typically from 1.5 – 2mm aluminium, under their METCASE brand, they distribute OKW’s plastic enclosures, ROLEC die cast IP 66/67 rated aluminium housings, and moulded lightweight ABS cases from Teko and Serpac.

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Ian Cox,  
Operations Director

And the JAVELIN production control system from Hexagon is at the very heart of their complex operation, both on the shop floor and in the office.

“JAVELIN played an absolutely vital role in getting the company to where it is today, and will remain vital as we grow,” says Ian Cox. “As there are between 15,000 and 20,000 parts set up on JAVELIN across the five brands we couldn’t run a business of this size without the information and control it gives us.”

They provide enclosures for electronics to many industry sectors, including health and medical applications, measuring and control, mechanical engineering, automotive, heating, security, and energy. At one stage they supplied the voting control boxes for the TV show Who Wants To Be A Millionaire.

METCASE’s metal products are manufactured at their factory in Fareham, and they often need to modify the injection moulded products they import from ROLEC in Germany, Teko from Italy, and American company Serpac, along with those from their parent company OKW in Germany.

## About the company:

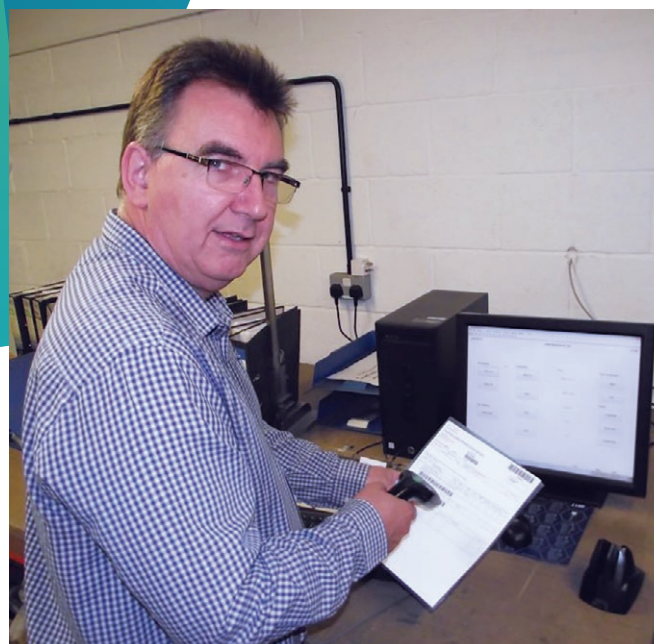
**Name:** OKW Enclosures Ltd

**Business:** Produces metal housings for electronics

**Website:** okw.co.uk

## Key benefits achieved:

- All shop floor operations for manufacturing the METCASE enclosures are controlled
- Provides control of all supply operations, addressing minimum stock levels
- Operation more reliable and accurate with everything being scanned
- Full visibility and control over importing and distribution processes
- Raises invoices and delivery notices easily
- Easier to track costings which are used for end of month stock valuations



They have used JAVELIN and its forerunner, Jobshop, for more than 20 years, currently running the 2017 release. “We updated our entire I.T. system in 2011, and now that we’ve also made a sea change to meet JAVELIN’s SQL database requirement, our philosophy is to work with the latest releases.”

All shop floor operations for manufacturing the METCASE enclosures are controlled with JAVELIN. The blanks are cut on two Murata Wiedermann CNC punch presses and then folded on Amada press brakes. Each part has a JAVELIN job card detailing every operation and drawing records. But before that stage, the software’s powerful MRP system comes into play, providing precise control of all supply operations, addressing minimum stock levels and showing exactly what components they need to make.

Everything moving through the shop floor has a Works Order. “For example, when we make METCASE enclosures, each individual component has its own JAVELIN WO for manufacturing, material required, routing and processing. And a top level WO brings in the kitting and puts it into stock.”

He says Shop Floor Data Capture was a big step forward for them. “It meant our operation became more reliable and accurate with everything being scanned, removing the possibility of error by inputting wrong digits. It records everything – punching, bending, inserting, tapping, powder coating or wet painting, and digital printing for the front panels – all done by touch screen and bar coding, so a WO might say Punch, Form, Insert, Linish, Powdercoat.”

And the software plays an equally important role in giving full visibility and control over their importing and distribution processes for OKW, ROLEC, Teko and Serpac products. “If a customer wants 20 cases from ROLEC, we raise a Purchase Order and can include a box on the front that tells us who they are and the order number.”



He explains how the Works Order integrates with the Purchase Order in providing unique information where necessary. "If we're supplying a quantity of OKW cases, for instance, to a distributor, the distributor may want us to add a yellow label to each enclosure. When the PO is raised, it'll be issued to a WO telling staff to put a yellow RS label on, and pack it in a certain storage bin ready for a specific shipment."

Where products are modified by machining features such as USB holes and slots for ribbon cables into the case, they enter the JAVELIN system via a Purchase Order, and allocated to a Works Order for processing on the shop floor. Once the modifications are complete, the WO is closed off and the products put into stock ready for delivery.

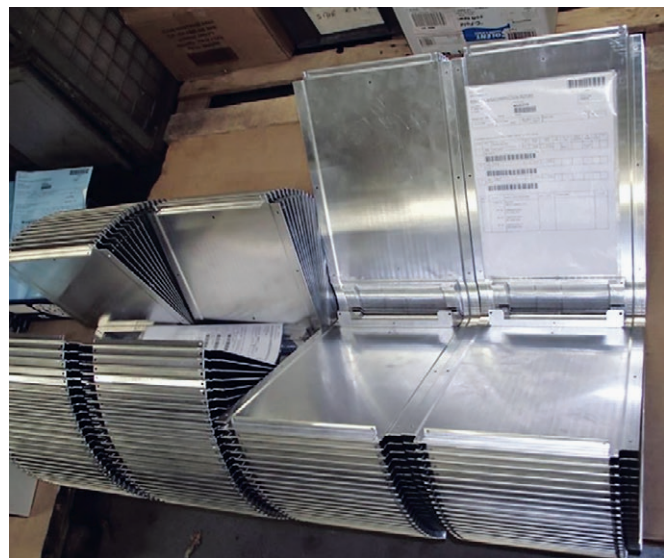
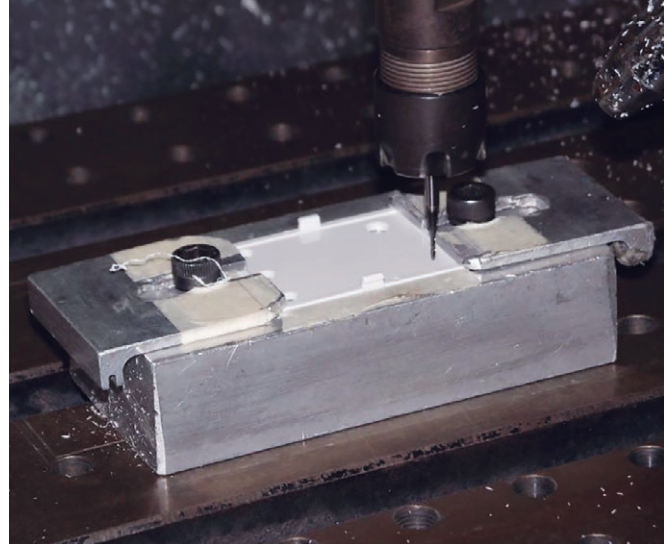
Even when an order is for standard enclosures with no modifications, he says JAVELIN gives them full visibility and control at all times, and is used at the very start of their process. "Whenever we need to supply something to a customer, whether a sample or full order, the Sales Office team load the information under that customer's details. If we need to bring the product in from one of the brands JAVELIN raises the Purchase Order for the supplier and the customer's sales confirmation. When it arrives with us we book it in through JAVELIN, raise the delivery note and ship it out." He says an individual order from a distributor may be 20 or 30 lines spread across the brands. MRP is then used to show which items should go on each brand's PO.

Finally, everything is costed on JAVELIN, having been created on the system with a Bill Of Materials and routing, which produces the standard costing. "Modifications can be built onto that, giving an accurate price for quotations. And the standard costing is used in end-of-month stock valuation and Work In Progress valuations."

Ian Cox concludes by saying JAVELIN is core to their business, and a vital and integral aspect of their ability to successfully manage the five brands... particularly through their use of Crystal Reports. "We're just putting a new product into the market, and I've used a Crystal Report to create the price book in JAVELIN from Excel spreadsheets. It imports from the spreadsheet, taking that data and formatting it from horizontal to vertical, and outputting it into the price book structure."

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**Ian Cox,**  
Operations Director





Hexagon is a global leader in digital reality solutions, combining sensor, software and autonomous technologies. We are putting data to work to boost efficiency, productivity, quality and safety across industrial, manufacturing, infrastructure, public sector, and mobility applications.

Our technologies are shaping production and people-related ecosystems to become increasingly connected and autonomous – ensuring a scalable, sustainable future.

Hexagon's Manufacturing Intelligence division provides solutions that use data from design and engineering, production and metrology to make manufacturing smarter.

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