

Subcontract Laser Processing – Past, Present and Future

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Not long after the first use of lasers, they were being adopted into manufacturing applications and the need for access to laser material processing began. Micrometric was one of the early job shops (founded in 1981) to commercialise laser processing as a service, initially with laser cutting and then later with diversification into other processes.

The growing pains of a subcontract laser business are discussed, from the example of Micrometric, together with opportunities and challenges that steered the organisation to growth and process diversification. More than the technology, a business is built on the people and this is also a consideration.

Observations about the current situation for those in this marketplace and a look to the future are discussed and the balance between opportunity and strategy in steering the future direction of a business like this.