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Net Shape Electroforms Replace Welded 3D Components

Rochester, New York (September 17, 2009) – Significant cost and time savings have been realized by electroforming precision air ducts for an aircraft engine ground testing system. Unlike conventional electroforming, NiCoForm's net shape approach aims to form components with all required elements in place, so that post-electroforming operations are greatly reduced or completely eliminated.

Traditional methods of manufacturing complex 3-dimensional shapes rely on metal sheet forming and welding - a labor intensive process, requiring the utilization of auxiliary tooling with many negative cost, time and dimensional accuracy ramifications.

By using electroforming in high strength NiColoy[®], a proprietary nickel-cobalt alloy, most of the extraneous processes and tooling needs were eliminated. A polymer two-piece reusable master had replaced 2 stamping dies, a welding fixture, and a trim tool. The net shape process employed by NiCoForm produced a single piece component with mounting holes and counter sinks precisely positioned for installation.

NiColoy[®] air scoops were produced with a shorter manufacturing cycle, at less than 50% of the cost of their welded sheet metal counterparts, and had tighter dimensional tolerances.

Founded in 1999, NiCoForm, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of diverse electroformed components with its proprietary family of high performance nickel-based alloys, NiColoy[®].

For more information, visit www.nicoform.com