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Metalworking Case Study
Improved Tool Life and Time Savings

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DOCUMENTED COST SAVINGS: **\$305,823.69**PRODUCT CATEGORY: **Tooling**REALIZED: **Improved Tool Life and Time Savings**SUPPLY PARTNER: **KYOCERA**

CUSTOMER PROFILE

A precision machining manufacturer specializing in high-volume Swiss machining operations. The customer has partnered with Stellar Industrial since early 2025 and relies on consistent tooling performance and minimized downtime to support production throughput.

THE OPPORTUNITY

During an on-site visit, the Stellar Industrial team identified that the customer's Swiss machining applications were experiencing very short tool life—often only five pieces per edge—which required frequent and time-consuming tool changeovers. Because Swiss tool changes are more complex than standard turret lathes, these interruptions drove excess labor hours, downtime, and production inefficiencies. The customer agreed to competitive testing, creating an opportunity to evaluate tooling that could extend tool life and reduce labor burden.

SOLUTION

Stellar partnered with SGS Kyocera to run controlled trials across multiple Swiss operations. Testing demonstrated dramatic tool life improvements, including increases from five pieces to as many as thirty per edge. Fewer tool changes reduced downtime and labor involvement and improved workflow stability. The success of these tests also opened the door for additional tooling opportunities and helped the customer see measurable value beyond product price alone, including improved productivity and better allocation of labor.

RESULT

Stellar documented three separate improvements that together delivered \$305,823.69 in total savings. The largest was a tool life improvement totaling \$203,033.69 from reduced insert consumption. An additional \$64,000 was saved through direct labor reduction due to fewer Swiss tool changes. A third improvement, valued at \$38,790, came from increased cut-off insert life and associated time savings. These combined gains strengthened the relationship and demonstrated Stellar's ability to uncover both tooling and operational efficiencies despite ongoing challenges within the account.



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Sustaining win-win partnerships for Stellar value.

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