



13026 W. McFarlane Rd., Building D1-4  
Airway Heights, WA 99001  
E-mail: [Sales@Lmprecfab.com](mailto:Sales@Lmprecfab.com)

Toll Free (877) 773-2322  
(509) 244-5446  
Fax (509) 244-6341

## Precision Sheet Metal Fabrication and Machine Shop

- CNC Punching & Forming
- CNC Machining
- MIG & TIG Welding
- Metal Finishing
- Light & Complex Assembly
- Design & Engineering
- Quality Assurance
- Shipping Services

### INWAC Provides the Manufacturing Power of a Community for Aerospace Customers

Six years ago the Inland Northwest Aerospace Consortium (INWAC) was just getting its start, with an idea that was a little unorthodox. That's when L&M Precision and a handful of other manufacturers in the region—many of whom were direct competitors with each other—decided to create a new path to unify the region's resources to attract new Aerospace manufacturing customers.

"The main force behind INWAC is the core competencies each unique manufacturing resource brings to the table," says L&M Vice President Fred Brown. "By combining these resources, we get a result that's bigger than the sum of our parts and allows us to work jointly to build and deliver Aerospace components and assemblies faster. And that's how we are able to attract bigger projects."

The concept behind INWAC hasn't changed much over the past six years, but the years have continued to improve execution, as well as gain increasing attention from Aerospace customers. L&M Precision is one of a dozen integrated manufacturers under INWAC, meaning the precision sheet metal forming and machining company not only makes Aerospace parts but can also manage all of the associated processes that take those parts all the way through to final delivery, even if L&M Precision Fabrication itself does not offer the services in-house.

"The benefit to our customer is that they can come to us to place an order knowing we'll oversee that project and work in partnership with the other suppliers needed to complete the finished product. This is a huge benefit for purchasing managers, and can greatly reduce their required time and effort to manage multiple suppliers."

And INWAC delivers on that promise, offering a huge range of services that can be coordinated by L&M Precision's knowledgeable staff.

Some of the capabilities offered by the Inland Northwest Aerospace Consortium include:

- vacuum forming
- plastic injection molding
- laser cutting
- heat treating
- Aerospace coatings and finishes
- plating
- testing

All INWAC members are Aerospace certified, so even though an Aerospace customer is working with L&M Precision or one of the other integrated contract manufacturers, all of the processes are certified. That means all products are finished, certified, tested and delivered on-time and without defects. L&M Precision itself boasts an on-time delivery rate of 99.5% and has had a rejected product rate of under 0.5% for more than two years running.

These efforts have not gone unnoticed by the Aerospace industry. L&M Precision Vice President Fred Brown notes that L&M Precision has seen a 40% increase in Aerospace work to date for 2014, and is pleased that due to improvements made over the previous year, the increase has been handled with zero overtime and a smooth workflow for on-time deliveries.

Brown credits much of this to the ongoing work that INWAC members do to improve



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internal processes and add to their capabilities. In late 2013, L&M Precision added a new 4-Axis vertical machining center that has more than tripled the machine shop's potential output.

"Our 4-axis VMS center is also up, and running well. Machine times are way down, giving us greater capability, tighter tolerances and more competitive pricing than we have ever had," says Brown.

Part of the promise that INWAC offers members is continued access to ongoing workforce training and certification assistance, bringing the quality of processes and the skill level of workers throughout the area to the level needed to meet the needs of the Aerospace industry.

"INWAC is a unique group," notes Brown. "We make the lives of our Aerospace customers much easier, so they get the benefit of all the talent our region holds but only have one project manager to deal with in order to have all those needs met."

Want to learn more? Contact L&M Precision today or visit the INWAC website for more information about INWAC and available.