



1987 MACHINERY
Sheet Metal Machinery & Service

CASE STUDY

How SMART Local 100 Advanced Sheet Metal Training With 1987 Machinery



CLIENT INDUSTRY

Workforce Training & Apprenticeship •
Sheet Metal



OUR EXPERTISE

Sheet Metal Machinery • Laser Cutting •
Laser Welding • Equipment Installation •
Training & Support



KEY SOLUTIONS

- Custom laser cutting table
- Laser welding equipment
- Full-service support

KEY CHALLENGES

- ✗ Outdated fabrication equipment
- ✗ Gap between training and field technology
- ✗ Need for simplified equipment procurement
- ✗ Limited internal technical support

KEY RESULTS

- ✓ Apprentices trained on modern fabrication technology
- ✓ Faster, cleaner cutting compared to plasma systems
- ✓ Seamless equipment installation and onboarding
- ✓ Ongoing access to responsive technical support

CONTEXT

The effectiveness of a sheet metal apprenticeship program depends on how closely its equipment reflects real shop conditions. At the Sheet Metal Air Rail & Transportation (SMART) Local 100 Training Center in Suitland, Maryland, that alignment is essential. The five-year program combines classroom instruction with field experience, requiring equipment that supports current fabrication workflows.

Apprentices train in the classroom while working in the field, building practical skills across fabrication and installation. As the industry shifts toward laser-based systems, legacy equipment creates a gap between training and jobsite expectations.

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Redefine your fabrication process with 1987 Machinery's laser cutting solutions. Learn more at [1987machinery.com](https://www.1987machinery.com).

CHALLENGES

The training center relied on a plasma cutting system that remained operational but no longer matched current fabrication practices. Laser cutting and laser welding offer faster processing, cleaner edges, and greater precision, making them standard in many shops.

Without exposure to these systems, apprentices would enter the workforce with a learning curve that affects early productivity. The center needed to upgrade equipment without delays tied to sourcing, setup, or training.

RESULTS

More Relevant Training

Apprentices now train on equipment used in modern fabrication environments, reducing the gap between training and field performance. Laser systems also improve cut quality and processing speed, strengthening instructional value.

Improved Training Efficiency

Faster cutting and reduced material prep streamline demonstrations and increase hands-on learning time. Reliable support from 1987 Machinery decreases disruptions and allows instructors to focus on training.

Positioned for Future Upgrades

A consistent process for sourcing, installation, and training enables the center to continue updating equipment as technology evolves. Future investments are already planned to expand capabilities further.

Support That Maintains Training Continuity

Ongoing service from 1987 Machinery ensures SMART Local 100's equipment remains operational and available for daily instruction. Quick access to technical support minimizes downtime and maintains training schedules.



SOLUTIONS

A Service-Driven Equipment Partner

SMART Local 100 selected 1987 Machinery based on its accessibility, technical expertise, and ability to support equipment beyond the initial sale. Direct communication and consistent follow-through simplified both purchasing and ongoing support.

Introducing Laser Fabrication Systems

The center implemented a custom laser cutting table designed to fit within the facility and replace older cutting processes. It also added laser welding equipment to expand fabrication capabilities and align training with current shop practices.

1987 Machinery managed sourcing, delivery, installation, and training, creating a single point of accountability and reducing implementation friction.

From Setup to Instruction

Installation and commissioning were completed efficiently. Training focused on enabling instructors to operate and maintain the systems independently. This allowed immediate integration into the curriculum, minimizing downtime between delivery and instructional use.

SUCCESS

SMART Local 100 strengthened its training program by adopting laser-based fabrication systems supported by responsive expertise from 1987 Machinery. The result is a training environment aligned with current industry practices and prepared for continued advancement.

Are you looking to bring modern fabrication technology into your operation? Connect with the 1987 Machinery team at 1987machinery.com.

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