Hartwig, Inc.
Novatech,
Westech & Okuma
Partners

Novatech Corporation (changed to Novatech Limited in 2004) was founded in 1970 to provide Inertia-Friction Welding to the energy industry and automotive after-market as a service. With the acquisition of a Caterpillar Inertia Welder, Novatech was able to selectively build its customer base with the use of this high technology; and eventually broadened its scope further into military and commercial industries. In 1983, Novatech pioneered the manufacture of the original inertia welded uni-body valve design for the oil field service industry; and in 1991, Novatech began to market its own line of valves and seats. As customer demand grew for the Novatech brand, Novatech President, Starr Pitzer, began searching for more efficient ways to produce his valves and seats. With competition now coming from outside the U.S., it was time to automate! "If we hope to compete worldwide, we don't have a choice." In 2000, Novatech introduced automation to its manufacturing process with the integration of two Okuma Crown lathes and two Wes-Tech Gantry loaders. The new set-up allowed Novatech the opportunity to robotically load machines thus decreasing cycle time and increasing tolerances. The throughput and quality provided by automation allowed Novatech to compete on a global basis. The more efficient Novatech became, the greater demand grew. In 2002, two Okuma Captain L470's with Wes-Tech Gantry loaders were introduced, followed by an Okuma GA-26T grinder with a Wes-Tech Gantry loader in 2004, just to keep pace. As innovation and demand growth in Novatech's product line continued, innovation in its manufacturing process was required. In 2006, Novatech incorporated its sixth automated cell and introduced 4-axis lathe turning with the introduction of an Okuma LU300 and Captain L370 with a single Wes-Tech Gantry loading the two machines. True to Novatech's slogan, "Innovations in technology for industry," Starr and his organization have set the standard for automation in North Texas and continue to be a pioneering leader in manufacturing.