

## *A Good Finish ...*



### International Cooperation Leads to Better Design of Plating Line

When AESF International Branch Member William Reginiano of Israel Aircraft Industries read his March 1998, issue of *Plating and Surface Finishing*, he found just what he was looking for. Featured was a story about Boeing Portland's Processing Center, and how a team of surface finishing professionals designed and built a state-of-the-art plating facility.

Reginiano had more than a casual interest, because he and his co-workers were on the verge of designing and building their own plating lines. He knew his shop would be processing parts similar to those processed at Boeing Portland. In most cases, the parts would be processed to comply with Boeing specifications.

With that in mind, Reginiano contacted Neil Cernitz and Brad Johnson, who were mentioned by name in the March feature. The Boeing team was happy to share information about the shop design, and Reginiano was impressed.

"I spent a long time looking at what Boeing Portland had done," he said. "I felt it was important for us to see the shop and meet the people who worked on the project."

With permission from both companies, Reginiano and co-worker Arie Yogevev visited Boeing Portland in January. The two spent more than 50 hours studying the shop's design and collecting ideas to improve the design of their new plating facility.

"We obtained more useful information than we ever hoped to receive," Reginiano said. "Because of the visit, we have already redesigned most of the lines from our original plans."

Yogevev was impressed with the close teamwork at Boeing Portland. "Boeing has a very good team running the shop," he said. "I was impressed with the depth of knowledge of the employees."

Ideally, Reginiano said he'd like to have taken Johnson back to Israel to help with the design and start-up of their new plating shop. "It would have been a tremendous help, but at least we have already gained a much better idea of what we want to achieve," he said.

Personnel from both companies will have the opportunity to visit again at the 1999 Aerospace/Airline Plating and Metal Finishing Forum, April 20-22, in Jacksonville, FL. "We're looking forward to seeing Brad and Neil again," Reginiano said. "We are also looking forward to seeing other experts in the aerospace industry at the event."

As for Boeing Portland, Johnson says the surface finishing team also learned from the visit of Reginiano and Yogevev. "Cutting costs is essential in today's economic climate," he said. "Sharing with other companies can be beneficial for all parties. It can help everyone involved to be more prepared to achieve their goals, without giving away any market edge or trade secrets. This kind of sharing of technology between companies is a good example for all surface finishers." **P&SF**



*Brad Johnson of Boeing Portland is a member of the Portland Branch and serves on the AESF Aerospace Plating & Finishing Applications Committee. He is presenting a paper on "Modular Racking for Automated Electroplating Lines" at the 1999 Aerospace/Airline Plating & Metal Finishing Forum.*