



Case Study: Enabling South Australian Manufacturing with Technical Translation



Client Profile: Adelaide Precision Engineering (APE)

Industry

Advanced Manufacturing &
Export (Aerospace Components)

Location

Pooraka, Adelaide, South Australia

Project Size

150,000+ words across multiple
technical manuals and compliance
documents

Language Pair

English to German

Service Required

Specialist Technical Translation and Multilingual
Typesetting

The Challenge: Regulatory Compliance and Market Entry in Germany

Adelaide Precision Engineering (APE), a long-established South Australian manufacturer of specialised metal components, secured a major contract to supply parts to a prominent aerospace firm in Germany. This contract required APE to deliver comprehensive technical documentation, including assembly manuals, maintenance guides, and regulatory safety data sheets, translated accurately into German.

APE's challenges were multifaceted and critical:

Technical Accuracy

The documentation contained complex, industry-specific terminology (metallurgy, fluid dynamics). Any mistranslation could lead to equipment failure, safety violations, and severe legal liability under EU/German regulations.

DTP and Formatting

The manuals contained intricate diagrams and CAD drawings. The translation needed professional Desktop Publishing (DTP) to ensure the translated German text fit naturally within the existing layouts (multilingual typesetting).

Compliance

Documents required translation accuracy suitable for submission to German regulatory bodies, demanding a high level of quality assurance.

The Solution: ATS Specialised Industry Team

Adelaide Precision Engineering chose Australian Translation Services (ATS) due to their ISO 17100 certified quality process and their ability to staff the project with specialist, Adelaide-coordinated technical translators.

ATS implemented a customised workflow for this high-stakes project:

Dedicated Technical Translator Team

ATS assembled a small, core team of NAATI-accredited translators who were not only native German speakers but also possessed formal engineering or technical backgrounds. This ensured terminological precision from the outset.

Glossary Development

Working directly with APE's engineering lead in Pooraka, Adelaide, ATS established a comprehensive, client-approved glossary of all key technical terms. This glossary was strictly enforced across all 150,000+ words to ensure absolute consistency.

Integrated DTP Service

The translation was immediately followed by a professional DTP phase. ATS ensured that the expanded German text (German is often 20-30% longer than English) was expertly reflowed, preserving the original manual design and diagram placements, ready for print or digital distribution.

Local Project Management

An ATS Project Manager, dedicated to the South Australian region, served as the single point of contact, facilitating daily check-ins and immediate response to technical queries from APE's Adelaide office.

The Result: Successful Market Entry and Reduced Risk

The partnership with ATS allowed Adelaide Precision Engineering to meet its German client's stringent demands accurately and on schedule, facilitating a smooth entry into the lucrative European market.

Key Outcomes

Key Outcome	Business Impact for APE
Regulatory Compliance	All translated safety and compliance documentation was accepted by the German client and regulatory auditors on the first submission, eliminating rejection risks.
Reduced Liability	Glossary consistency and specialist translation ensured zero technical errors in the manuals, dramatically reducing the risk of operational mishaps or legal claims overseas.
Timely Delivery	The entire project was delivered five days ahead of APE's final deadline, enabling them to meet their shipping schedule and establish a positive initial relationship with their German partner.
Brand Professionalism	The flawless presentation (DTP) and high quality of the German manuals enhanced APE's reputation as a reliable, world-class supplier.

Client Testimonial

"Launching into the German market depended entirely on getting our complex manuals right. ATS assigned technical experts right here in South Australia who understood our industry jargon. The professionalism and speed with which they handled the translations and the tricky formatting were outstanding. They were a key partner in our successful export venture."


-Marcus P., Export Director, Adelaide Precision Engineering (APE)


Conclusion

More than just a translation

For Adelaide Precision Engineering, ATS provided more than just a translation; they delivered a crucial risk mitigation strategy and a professionally packaged product, directly enabling APE's expansion into a major new international market. This success underscores ATS's capability to manage high-volume, highly specialised B2B translation projects in South Australia.

 24/7 Support

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