



Press News

HOMAG UK helps Lignify double capacity

Lancashire based Lignify is a manufacturer of bespoke shop fittings, exhibition stands and specialist fit outs for education, healthcare, laboratories, leisure and hospitality markets. Established in the early 1990s, the company operates from a 19,000sq.ft. facility in Chorley. In 2014, with much of the business' machinery getting long in the tooth, the directors made the decision to invest in new equipment which would drive the business forward towards its target turnover of £2m within three years.

“It was an important step for us,” explains Ian Smallwood, a director of the company. He continues, “All our equipment had served us well, but it was outdated and in many instances worn out. Consequently, we drew up a plant list that we believed would take us to the next level and then went out into the market place to find the best solution.

“We talked to a number of different machine manufacturers, but it was HOMAG UK that impressed us the most. We visited the showroom at Castle Donington and were impressed, not only by the machinery, but also by the professional approach of everyone we met at the company. It was abundantly clear that they understood what we were looking to achieve and their recommendations went beyond just quoting what we asked for.

“One of the key machines we had requested was a beam saw. Up until then we had used a couple of table saws, but we felt a beam saw would take us to another level. However, Jon Lawman, HOMAG's area sales



manager, explained that for our purposes, a CNC nesting machine would be far more efficient and effective, and therefore recommended we invest in a WEEKE Vantage 100.

“Looking back, I am so pleased we listened to Jon’s advice. The Vantage 100 has been a revelation. It can accurately router, drill, shape, groove or profile various components from one sheet of material, it’s so fast and versatile. We also opted for a Flex5 head which enables us to cut at any angle from 0-90 degrees with automatic adjustment.

Despite it being early days, the Vantage 100 has already had a massive impact on the productivity and efficiency of our business. There is so much more to come from the machine, as job by job we learn its true capabilities.”

The heart of the set up

“The Vantage 100 is the foundation machine in a ‘production triangle’ on the shop floor which has transformed our operation. Now we take full size jumbo sheets onto the nesting machine which processes them in one go so we get completely finished parts off the CNC at an incredible speed. Previously, this operation took us two hours; the Vantage completes the task in 10 minutes. What’s more, the accuracy is spot on and the quality first class.



“From nesting, they go either to the WEEKE BHX 050 drilling centre or direct to the new BRANDT Highflex 1230 edgebander. Again, the speed, accuracy and finish quality from both these machines is just outstanding. Using our old edgebander we had to hand finish every

part; with the BRANDT the trimming, snipping, rounding and polishing units mean every part comes off the line completely finished and ready for the next stage of production.

“The fourth machine we invested in was a replacement for our old sander. This time we opted for an entry-level BÜTFERING SWT 114 C which is ideal for finish sanding our solid wood tapered table legs. It is so quick and easy to use and consistently gives us a superb finish to the solid wood legs.”

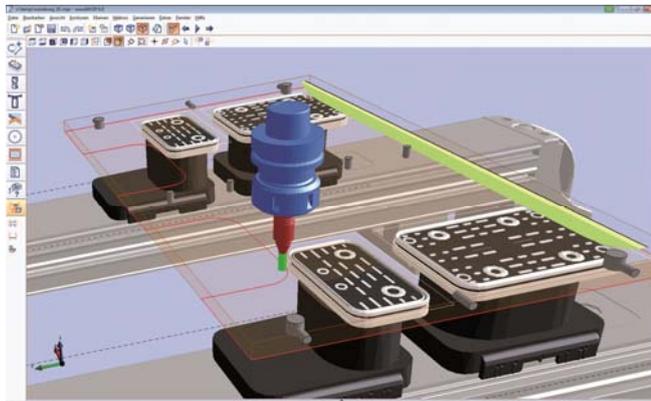
Increased flexibility – another massive benefit

“Before we bought the Vantage 100, it was a real hassle for us to queue jump urgent jobs or delay jobs due to material delivery issues. Now such urgent necessities have zero impact on the running of the business. If we are doing a long-run on the Vantage 100, we can interrupt it with an urgent job and, because there is no pod set-up time required, the long-run job resumes with little or no effect on production.

“Another massive advantage is in health and safety. Before, pushing large panels through table saws by hand was inherently dangerous. Now, it’s all handled automatically by the nesting machine so there is absolutely no danger to our workforce.”

Software learning curve

“One of the major challenges we had to come to terms with was the new software. The software we were familiar with was so antiquated that it was a major step-change moving up to the new woodWOP and Magicut software from HOMAG UK.



“It took us a while to learn how to get the best out of the programmes, but I have to say it was massively worth the effort our

team put in to learning how to master it. The difference in performance and efficiency is like chalk and cheese, and there is still so much more to come.

“The training was done both in-house when the equipment was installed and also at HOMAG UK where our operators spent five days learning how to use the machines and software. “

Support from HOMAG Finance

“Obviously, this was a major investment for our business, but HOMAG was really helpful in putting together a finance package which suited our needs and enabled us to forge ahead with the deal. Not only that, but it was also happy to help us with recommendations for additional equipment that is not even in the HOMAG Group’s portfolio, such is their desire to provide unbiased and helpful information.

“I can’t speak too highly of the benefits the new machinery and software have brought to our business. We now easily have the capacity to double our turnover. The new setup means we can make complex jobs faster and more accurately to a much higher quality than ever before. On top of that, we have the peace of mind of the support from the world leader in woodworking machinery backing us up which is really comforting,” concludes Ian Smallwood.

If you would like more information or a demonstration of any of the machines from the HOMAG Group, please contact Adele Hunt at HOMAG UK on 01332 856424.

June 2015