

## VCi Invest in New Machinery and Software

VC Industries have shown, with the investment in staff, manufacturing equipment and technology that the demands of the market place are constantly changing - and VCI are too! They are once again making a number of capital investments and preparing for future growth.

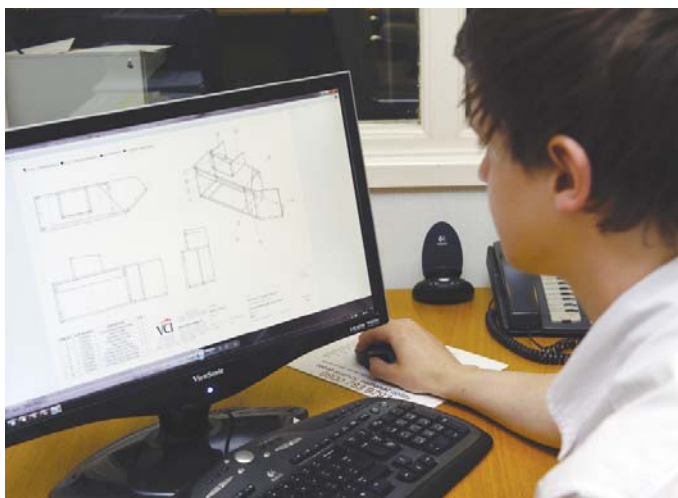
Capability and capacity were the two key features highlighted by VCI Directors, Pauline Vernon and Robin Cliff, so progress at the Stourton works has seen developments that can only enhance the overall service to customers.

New machinery has seen major investment but VCI have also made a significant investment in Solidworks 3D software which will send drawing data to CNC machines via CAM links so reducing set-up times. The new software also helps VCI to transfer drawing data to customers and so speeds up the turnaround time of setting up for new panel requirements.

Adding to the existing 5 IMA edgebanding equipment was seen as a priority both in terms of capability and capacity so a Casadei Model ALA 23 T-ER single sided edgebander has been purchased. Pauline said: "The new machinery also increases our capability. Before we invested in the new machine, we could do 0.4mm to 3mm with board depths of 12mm up to 36mm. The new machinery now means that we can increase the board edging depth to 50mm, but will also reduce the capability of panel width to 50mm. All of our edgebanders have pre-milling so that we can provide our customers with a quality finish."

"The edgebanding department is augmented by the section which produces shaped panels using a Brandt Profile Edger/Trimmer," added Robin.

VCi have always supplemented the main production flow with ancillary machinery, striving to maximise efficiency. A Weeke



Venture 1 with a patented quick change system for vertical spindles and a Twin Rail Borer suitable for smaller components in both length and width has added to the already significant drilling capacity.

"The new developments will benefit existing customers but also open the door to new customers who are looking for a more inclusive service offer from their panel supplier" said Robin.

VCi have traditionally serviced the kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and office furniture markets with MFC and MFMDf panels but see opportunities in other market areas and using other materials e.g. laminates and veneers ■

# The VCi Products

Office



General Factory



CNC Drills



Profile Edging



More of the Same at VCi

# Production Process

Saws



Edging



Quality Check



Pack and Despatch

VCi have been successfully reassessed for both their ISO9001:2008 Certification and their FSC accreditation. Continual improvement in quality and service is the company ethos, borne out again by the recent successes.

# Staffing Success at VCI

VC Industries Ltd continues with their original company philosophy that 'quality people produce quality products'.

Director Pauline Vernon said: "We have always believed that if we offer staff the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge they will not only benefit the company but also add value to the service we offer our customers. We are committed to an apprentice programme but in addition, every employee is given the opportunity to train to a minimum of NVQ level 2".

Perhaps the best example is Chris Galloway who joined VCI at the onset in 2002. Chris has worked his way from machine operator to Operations Manager and is now an integral part of the VCI management team. Chris received his 2:1 Degree in Business Management from Leeds Metropolitan University and as he said: "The chance to develop my understanding of the different facets of business management has given me a much broader outlook. The degree was hard work but I am sure will be an advantage in the future".

John Fawcett recently completed the City & Guilds L2 in Electrical & Mechanical Engineering and is now working towards a foundation degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Leeds College of Technology.

The apprentice programme continues to flourish - as Gareth Shearon completed a L3 apprentice course in Wood Machining at Leeds College of Building so Jordan Lehane began his Wood Machining Apprenticeship. Alex Horner is also on course for NVQ L2 Apprenticeship in Distribution and Warehousing.

Improvement of service to customers is an integral part of the VCI staff training philosophy and it has recently been shown with Works Manager Paul Douglas and CAD Technician Ryan Jacques both undertaking a specialised intensive programme of Solidworks 3D Design software training. "Invaluable", Paul said, "both with our discussions with customers and translating their needs into VCI systems for production ". Concluding, Pauline said: "The company encourages all staff - and there are over 50 now - to develop personally. We look together to find the right course to suit the persons' needs and their particular learning preference. From the total workforce at VCI - shop floor and office staff - over 75% now have NVQ L2 qualifications or above" ■



## Shopfitting sees the benefits of Outsourcing with VCI

When it comes to 'business development', VC Industries Director Pauline Vernon has 'seen it and done it' from most manufacturing angles over the years and firmly believes in the benefits of 'outsourcing'. "The answer is simple - do what you are good at and work closely with others who are also good at what they do" said Pauline.

And it's a philosophy that she and Co-Director Robin Cliff firmly believe VCI offer the UK shopfitting industry.

VCI are 'panel processors' - "it's what we do best... and it's all we do" stated Pauline. "We produce quality panels for a large cross section of the industry... and we don't have end user customers".

Over the years, VCI have found that when they develop 'outsource partnerships' with customers it is their customer who benefits in so many ways - they have access to VCI's specialist manufacturing facilities, they do not have to invest in a non-specialist area of manufacturing and can direct energy, personnel and resources into their core business - they benefit from VCI's qualified specialist staff who in turn have benefited from VCI's training programme; they know and can control operating costs; cyclical and seasonal fluctuations are eliminated whilst the overall project management burden is reduced yet control of strategic decision making is retained. "It's a win win situation for all parties" said Pauline.

And what really makes the concept work? "Trust is the most important thing..." said Pauline "...you need to trust totally your outsourced partner. We share fully all information with clients - work processes, call off programmes etc etc".

But VCI don't just produce panels - they produce the right panels, cost effective panels. VCI have SolidWorks design software and offer guidance and advice to achieve maximum board optimisation and reduce production processes to a minimum ■



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