

Case study

James Robinson Fibres

Used MAS for expert help to establish and implement an improved operational structure that would deliver both productivity, product and environmental performance improvements.

James Robinson Fibres is one of the oldest textile companies still in existence in the UK. From its Bradford base, the company transports some of its recycled fibres to Textfelt, (a subsidiary company), which are then turned into carpet underlay. Running the businesses from two sites was giving the team all sorts of logistical and strategic problems and they took the decision to seek advice from MAS.



“Thanks to MAS we have reduced our impact on the environment and reduced costs. We are also able to access and analyse data much more easily, which is more important than ever during the current challenging economic climate.”

James Taylor, Managing Director

Key Achievements

- > 50 tonnes of CO₂ energy savings realised per year.
- > Increase in Gross Value Added (GVA) of £250k.
- > 1 new job has been created.
- > Sales have been boosted by £250k.
- > 22% improvement in equipment effectiveness.
- > Data can now be accessed and analysed quicker and easier.
- > Communication between the company's two sites has greatly improved.

Provided by

“With assistance from MAS we purchased a new computer accountancy system which has made a marked difference to the level of efficiency and led to much better communications between the two sites. Now, all paperwork is emailed out which has led to a marked saving in paper and dependency on postage.”

James Taylor, Managing Director

How MAS helped

MAS adviser Dean Morgan from MCCR & Associates undertook a manufacturing review, highlighting areas in which the business could improve its manufacturing and environmental performance. This led to a strategic programme of work delivered by MAS, which included the introduction of Lean manufacturing, and seven members of staff were trained in Lean techniques.

Another of the review recommendations was to carry out a detailed analysis of the business carbon footprint. This review was carried out by environmental specialist Roland Arnison, and the resulting report not only detailed all the process impacts affecting the carbon footprint but also made proposals to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

A number of ‘Zero cost’ energy reduction measures were implemented, including altering the timer settings for night storage heating, encouraging staff to turn off warehouse lighting, air compressors and certain motors when not needed and more frequent maintenance of motors. This led to measured reductions in energy consumption, equating to an immediate annual saving of at least £460.

The analysis also identified that the use of recycled materials for the production of the Envirolay product would produce lower carbon emissions than polyurethane.

The company has taken this advice on board and switched to using recycled materials in production, which has also greatly improved the marketability of the product.

Results

MAS supported the purchase of a new accountancy computer system, which has vastly improved the efficiency of the business. There has been an immediate reduction in use of paper and envelopes resulting from correspondence now being sent electronically. The communication system between the two sites is also far more efficient, which has led to greater productivity.

834 tonnes of carpet and fabric waste is now used by subsidiary company Textfelt to produce the Envirolay felt carpet underlay. The company would otherwise have sent this waste to landfill. This is a major step forward in reducing landfill requirements and CO₂ emissions as well as cutting waste disposal costs.

James Robinson Fibres

Employees: 40

Location: Bradford, West Yorkshire

Manufactures: Textiles

The five main levels of service that MAS provides are:

- > Advice and information
- > A free on-site review
- > Training and networking events
- > In-depth consultancy support
- > Signposting and referral



Contact:

MAS Yorkshire & Humber
Saint Martins House
210-212 Chapeltown Road
Leeds

LS7 4HZ

Telephone: 08700 111 875

enquiries@mas-yh.co.uk

www.mas-yh.co.uk

