

Case Study

Harold Fisher Plastics Ltd

31 Employees £1.6m turnover based in Huddersfield



Ian Rendell, Managing Director

'Involvement with MAS has given us access to high level technical and management skills that have had a direct benefit and value to our business performance. If we had not used the MAS support, we would have lost an opportunity to help maintain our competitive position in a very demanding market.'

Company Profile

Harold Fisher (Plastics) Ltd are a plastic injection moulders working in a wide variety of end markets including automotive, electronic, engineering, housewares, leisure products and specialist plastic components.

They have extensive tooling capabilities including a comprehensive engineering workshop and a skilled workforce which are able to repair and modify moulding tools. They also have a fast turnaround capability which is vital to the industry.

With 31 employees working 24 hours over the main part of the week, the business turnover is £1.6 million.

Background

MAS delivered a 22 day manufacturing improvement project at Harold Fisher (Plastics) Ltd which covered two main areas of activity: plastic colour management and polymer moisture control. The project was carried out by Dean Morgan of MAS Associate MCCR & Associates who had earlier carried out a free diagnostic review. The business owners had acquired the business 6 months previously from the original family owners.

Recommendations for business improvements were made to provide wider services to customers, enhance process efficiencies, reduce customer lead-times and reduce wastage of materials, energy and other key resources.

Key Achievements

As a result of the project, the following benefits were achieved:

- Customer colour match times improved from 10 days to 2 days;
- Sales growth of 6% per annum;
- Processing times improved by 16%;
- Greater level of employee participation; and
- Entry into the Polymer Industry Awards 2005 under the category of Environmental Awareness, Training Development and Trainee of the Year as a direct result of the MAS intervention project.

Making it Happen

With the support of MAS Associate MCCR & Associates, the company was able to evaluate the current operating constraints and establish a clear plan to achieve significant process and customer benefits by introducing the following into practice:

1. Introduction of modern polymer drying techniques and capabilities
2. Establishment of colour spectrophotometer for colour matching and in-process testing
3. Provision of portable moisture measurement systems
4. Factory reorganisation for improved process flow and manufacturing streamlining
5. Creation of a new area for colour storage and handling
6. Improved the equipment capabilities for polymer drying through preventative maintenance approaches and determining drier efficiencies.

About MAS

MAS is a national DTI initiative, delivering practical, hands-on manufacturing advice and expertise to help you improve your performance. Delivered by experts with real-life knowledge and experience, MAS has already given advice to hundreds of businesses in Yorkshire & The Humber. Why not see how MAS can help your business?

Highlights of Achievements

As a result of the project, the following benefits were achieved:

- Ability to provide the services in-house to cover urgent customer enquiries;
- Greater level of employee participation and extending the technical skills of the operating team;
- Customer colour match times Improved from 10 to 2 days;
- Average process times improved by 16%;
- Energy Efficiency improvements saving £2000 per annum;
- Reducing material wastage on polymer and colour by 2%; and
- Assist in delivering additional sales growth by 6%.

What the Harold Fisher people said:

'The colour and moisture project has given us the ability to measure key elements of the process to ensure we fully meet customer needs and help reduce processing times thus giving us greater flexibility.' **Bob Collins – Quality Manager**

"The project has given me a greater understanding of the impact of materials in use on our process so I can match colours in hours rather than days. It has also released my time to become more involved in other areas of the factory." **Nigel Hirst – Materials Manager**

Since completing the project, Harold Fisher (Plastics) have been entered for the Polymer Industry Awards, 2005 under the categories of Environmental Awareness, Training Development and Trainee of the Year as a direct result of the MAS intervention project and the benefits derived in carrying out the project recommendations.

For more information

If you feel your business could benefit from MAS, why not complete your details below and fax to us on **0113 368 5261**. You can also contact: enquiries@mas-yh.co.uk or visit the website www.mas-yh.co.uk

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Name: _____ Job Title: _____
Company Name: _____ Nature of Business: _____
Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

I would like MAS to contact me to discuss (please tick box/es):

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hands on manufacturing improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Product development | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuous improvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technical and materials issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing organisational 'change' | <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce training and development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lean manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Process analysis | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing control and factory layout | <input type="checkbox"/> Improving workforce productivity | |

- I would like to join the Manufacturing Network and receive a free monthly e-newsletter about funding opportunities and events

Saint Martins House, 210-212 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HZ
Helpline: 08700 111 875, Fax: 0113 368 5261
Email: enquiries@mas-yh.co.uk Website: www.mas-yh.co.uk



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