

Arrow Wood Products hits bull's eye with new machine

Benchtop, cabinet door and componentry manufacturer, Arrow Wood Products, is enjoying a smoother and more efficient manufacturing process with the recent installation of a new edgebanding machine. The Victorian based company sourced the Stefani Level HD Automatic edgebanding machine and automatic return system from Gabbett Machinery.

According to the Operations Manager of the Dandenong door manufacturing site, Michael Bressan, Arrow Wood's previous machine had aged and it was becoming difficult to obtain parts.

"A new edgebanding machine is a significant investment and it was important that whatever we chose would provide value for money and improve the quality and efficiency of the door manufacturing process," says Michael.

Since installing the machine in December 2008, Arrow Wood hasn't looked back. Ease of use, a wide range of programs to choose from, instant changeover between edge types and a higher level of automation and improved product flow are just some of the benefits that have been noted to date.

"One of the most noticeable improvements is the decrease in product handling required," says Michael. "Previously, after the doors had been through the machine we would have to use scrapers and thinners to clean glue residue off doors. Now, with the Stefani's built in glue scraping and cleaning abilities, there is very little handling required."

"It was important that the machinery be able to withstand a high workload as it is used continuously through each shift. The Stefani has proven to be up to the task and the ease of changing between profiles means that there is minimal downtime. As a result of the more efficient manufacturing process, Arrow Wood has seen a significant increase in productivity and quality, which is now effectively supporting our service capabilities to Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland."

Michael speaks highly of Gabbett's service both during and after the installation phase. "Installing new machinery can sometimes see teething issues arise, but Gabbett really showed their true colours with the level of service provided. Any technical problems we have encountered



have been addressed straight away, which was particularly useful in the initial stages as our operators adapted to the new process. On the odd occasion that we have needed technical support we have often had a technician on site the same day, sometimes even within a few hours."

Obviously being impressed with the machine and Gabbett's level of service and support, Michael says he would recommend them to other companies. Edgebanding can be a difficult process but with the correct machine and advice it can be an area where great improvement in productivity can be made.

Established in 1979, Gabbett Machinery is a leading supplier of woodworking machinery. One hundred percent Australian owned, Gabbett has over 80 employees in seven offices throughout Australia and New Zealand.

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