

CASE STUDY Radan keeps the heat off as customers reduce lead times

Supplying finished products for customers across a wide range of different markets helped Spooner Industries remain buoyant during the recession. But with customers reducing their lead times, the period from the production department receiving an order, through to completing the manufacturing process, is getting increasingly shorter.

Nick Murgatroyd, who is responsible for lasering and folding the parts, says that Radan has played a major role in meeting deadlines, by programming and driving their Trumpf laser and Edwards Pearson press brake.

Spooner Industries set up a fully integrated operation incorporating Radan, Autodesk Inventor, the laser, the press brake and Microsoft AX business system. A bespoke Radan function speeds up the process of creating nests simultaneously from a number of works orders, contributing greatly to their ability to manufacture one-off products very competitively. "The lead time depends on the size of the job, but we can have a drawing issued in the morning and potentially start cutting in the afternoon. Previously, we couldn't even dream of starting the manufacturing within a couple of days," says Nick.

Operating with 125 employees from 60,000 square foot premises, Spooner manufactures products ranging from industrial ovens and sausage skin machines for the UK and overseas food markets, through driers for the tobacco industry and air turns for paper compa-

nies, to coil coating and other industrial processes for the metals sector.

Nick Murgatroyd says: "Radan

reads the list and creates all the symbols and then the nests. All we have to do is input what sheets we've got and run the nester. Previously it was all done manually; now, the bespoke function provides a nest schedule for me."

With the drawing office using Inventor as their main CAD system, a number of standard models has been set up as the starting point for most new designs. As a result, the drawing office can design parts which are test-proofed on the software before being approved for manufacture. The finished model is exported into AX, which creates the works orders; then the parts are cut on the Trumpf laser, before moving on to the Edwards Pearson press brake for bending.

"Now we have added Radbend to our suite of Radan modules we are able to fold a lot more, and Radbend gives us the ability to bend complex parts, freeing up valuable machine time and improving first-off reliability.

Contact: Trevor Glue
E: TrevorGlue@planit.com
W: www.planit.com



Spooner's Nick Murgatroyd