

SPRING 2018

Moulding the Future

Edition **4**

The Latest News and Information



Show Review – Southern Manufacturing & Electronics

February saw the Southern Manufacturing & Electronics 2018 show event ticked off for another year. This was our fifth appearance at this event but our first in the brand new purpose-built exhibition hall. There were thousands of delegates in attendance over the three-day event, which also ran free technical seminars.

The show offered a relaxed environment and, as in previous years, it is an opportunity to meet with our existing customers to catch up with their news and update them on ours. This year we were showcasing how we are adapting our business to meet our customers' needs. For example, many customers can benefit from our Kanban supply system, which

ensures more efficient production and stock management solutions.

We also met with new contacts, both delegates and exhibitors alike, across a broad spectrum of industries, including agriculture, defence, automotive and aerospace. We discussed a huge variety of thermoplastic injection moulding projects, from individuals looking for support with new products to companies looking at metal to plastic conversions for large-scale component production.

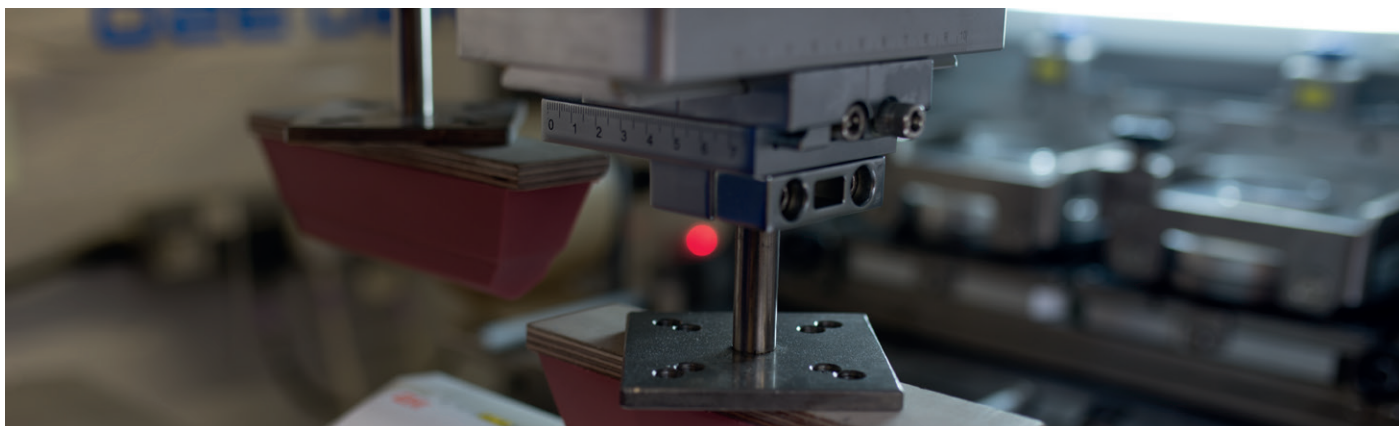
Missed us but want to find out more about how Broanmain is changing, why not pay a trip to our premises? Contact wilf@broanmain.co.uk to arrange your visit.

Operations



Broanmain continues to expand

As we reported back in the spring of 2017, Broanmain is committed to developing and investing in its site, to allow for further growth and improvements in its flow process. Investment in our facility continues into 2018 with our recent project, focussed on labour-intensive post moulding operations.

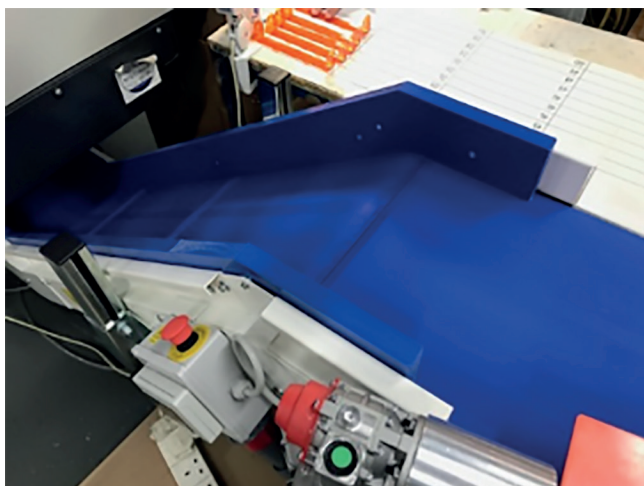


Machines are frequently run 'fully-automatic', with both products and runner system ejected together. Working together in partnership with Renmar Plastics Machinery, four custom-made Virginio Nastri conveyors were designed and manufactured to our

exacting specification. They were optimised for product capture and automated segregation of runners from mouldings. The installation of four Virginio Nastri robotic conveyor belts helped us to further improve quality assurance, increase productivity and lower production costs while ensuring our employees are safe.

Thomas Catinat (Broanmain's Shop Floor Manager) says "Renmar took the time to understand our particular requirements and the new conveyors reduce both contamination and labour associated with our housekeeping. Our team are thrilled to see new investment in the areas in which they work and to see their lives being made easier and less labour intensive. The success of the projects undertaken to date has prompted further investments to be rolled out over the next 12 months".

We have also created a purpose-built area for our print services. Our new print room allows for greater control over conditions and an improved workflow, again increasing efficiencies and productivity. Our facility incorporates pad multi-colour printing machines, which are ideal for contoured and difficult to access parts.



Staff News



Entry 1: Mastering the Basics

Maria Lopez moved from Spain with a degree in Chemical Engineering and ambitions to learn English and launch her professional career as an engineer.

After completing a Masters in 'Process Systems Engineering' at University of Surrey, Maria embarked on a mammoth job search submitting on average 10 CVs daily for several months before landing a trainee position in January 2017 with specialist technical trade moulder, Broanmain Plastics.

Recognising the size and scope of the global plastics industry and the job security it could potentially offer, Maria was excited to apply her scientific knowledge and carve out a career.

"I had covered plastic properties as part of my degree. Yet I had no practical experience of the sector. In order to do a proper job, I needed to understand all the what, why and how's of injection moulding," said Maria.

"It's important to be up-to-speed about the sector you work in. I regularly check news sites relevant to injection moulding, including BP&R, as well as websites applicable to the wider engineering community."

For Broanmain, Maria's appointment was a step change. Operations Director, Jo Davis, explained: "Our industry suffers from a lack of technically qualified processers. Most setters train on the job as there are very few, if any, relevant college and university courses available in this country. We identified that our business needs technicians who can take a more scientific approach, and have the skills, knowledge and ability to develop and improve processes."

Shadowing her Manager formed a large part of Maria's practical training in the early days. "On day one I borrowed and began reading the company's injection moulding process manuals," she explained.



"One of the biggest external misconceptions about injection moulding is that we push a button and the machine sets itself and runs automatically. But you need to understand everything, from the basic machine parameters to all the different variables, including temperature, pressure and speed and how each impacts another. Problem solving and analytical skills also feature strongly in my work."

Six weeks into the job and as part of her introduction to the injection moulding world, Broanmain enrolled Maria in the first of a series of new courses. Designed by Sumitomo (SHI) Demag and delivered at the company's newly opened Training Academy, the Level 1 Introduction to Injection Moulding gave Maria the opportunity to gauge her knowledge, learn how the machines, cooling systems and hot and cold runners work, and interact with people from other companies.

"It was useful to have some experience and then test what I'd learned with professional input. It helps to embed knowledge better," Maria continued.

"When I returned to Broanmain at the end of the introduction course I felt much more confident independently performing tool changes and adjusting the machine settings."

www.womeninplastics.co.uk



Company News

SHEQ Update

Broanmain is delighted to announce the completion of our ISO audit, which saw us converting to the BS EN ISO 9001:2015 quality management standard ahead of schedule. Andy and Agnieszka have both worked extremely hard towards this goal

and their work sees us moving towards a risk-based approach, allowing us to take pre-emptive action. Quality management is absolutely paramount for our business. This is integral to helping us improve customer satisfaction and build a sustainable business.

Operation Clean Sweep®

The first Operation Clean Sweep® seminar took place in February, with two of our team in attendance. Andy (SHEQ Manager) and Thomas (Shop Floor Manager) learned the results from the Operation Clean Sweep survey. It looked at 64 companies and the actions that were taken to prevent plastic pellets from escaping, from spill kits to mesh drain covers and staff training.

Led in the UK by BPF, Operation Clean Sweep is an international initiative from the plastics industry to reduce plastic pellet loss to the environment. To find out more about Operation Clean Sweep, please visit www.operationcleansweep.co.uk or contact Helen Jordan (hjordan@bpf.co.uk).



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