



Buxoplas Manufacturing

“Set to excel in extrusion”

Featuring small character inkjet printers
Traceability of extruded products ■ ■ ■



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Steve Mycock,
director of operations,
Buxoplas Manufacturing

Name: Buxoplas Manufacturing

Location: Bradwell (Derbyshire, UK)

Founding: 1967

Business: Extrusion of thermoplastic materials (tubes, rods, etc.)

Certifications: ISO 9001, ISO 14001

The challenge ■ ■ ■

At the heart of the Peak District in the north of England, Buxoplas Manufacturing has been extruding high quality thermoplastic tubing for applications within the automotive, industrial, horticulture, beverage, construction and utility industries for more than 45 years. When the company decided on a major reorganisation of its factory and warehousing facility, the project included replacing and expanding its range of inkjet coders. Regarded as a dependable supplier of high quality thermoplastic tubing, Buxoplas had identified that it needed to improve the overall efficiency of its operation to continue delivering the same high quality product to an increasing customer base. A key challenge for Buxoplas was to reduce the amount of material scrapped due to poor quality coding. Reliable coding equipment capable of printing clear, high contrast codes and logos in different colours, on plastics with low adherence properties, was essential. “The diverse sectors in which Buxoplas operates means that a wide range of substrates are utilised to meet specific requirements such as light and temperature stability. Many of these

materials do not absorb inks effectively and so adhesion, drying times, print clarity and quality are all significant challenges,” explains Steve Mycock, director of operations with Buxoplas.

With hundreds of varied coding messages, improving its ability to store and access codes easily when required was also a significant focus for Buxoplas along with the need to eliminate human error from the coding process.

Reducing the cost of consumables and maintenance costs was a further challenge while quickly accessible technical support and fast response times from engineers were vital in order to limit downtime.



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the team to trust ■ ■ ■

How Markem-Imaje helped ■ ■ ■

In 2011, Buxoplas teamed up with Markem-Imaje to replace its range of inkjet printers with 11 inkjet printers, including ten 9232 printers and one 9232 E printer. Specifically designed to meet the needs of the extrusion industry, the 9232 E was chosen because it can print white ink on to dark surfaces. "Our operation includes 16 production lines that are in use 12 hours a day. Whenever required, we move the printers

Buxoplas Manufacturing, a British extrusion company, has opted for Markem-Imaje's 9232 and 9232 E inkjet printers to identify and trace its thermoplastic products.

between our lines. This can be done very easily," continues Steve Mycock.

Printing long codes with time, date and batch numbers, descriptions and in some cases logos, means that coders have to be user-friendly. USB ports, which allow hundreds of different

messages to be uploaded when required, instead of being typed manually into the machine, reduce the number of errors. "Since installing the 9232 and 9232 E printers, downtime has been cut by 98% enabling us to operate at full capacity, fulfilling orders quickly and securing our business' reputation," he adds. Buxoplas could also reduce its costs and improve its environmental performance. The reliability and high quality printing of the printers has helped the company to reduce the amount of material wasted by 30%.

With a scheduled and effectively managed consumables contract, as well as the longer ink cartridge life of the 9232 and 9232 E, Buxoplas has reduced consumables costs



White ink coding on black tubing with 9232 E at Buxoplas Manufacturing.

by 80% and ensures the right level of consumables are in stock at all times. "Our operators received personalised on-site training which helped them get the best results from the printers. They can carry out day-to-day maintenance and servicing tasks preventing unnecessary downtime and improving coding quality. We can fulfill bespoke orders quickly and efficiently," concludes Steve Mycock.

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