

Building on long-term

Haffner has announced a strategic step to future-proof the business, with managing director Matt Thomas becoming the company's majority shareholder.

A Haffner spokesman said that this is a long-term commitment to stability, growth and continued investment in people, products and customer support. Working alongside the well-established leadership team, Thomas will continue to move the business forward, building on Haffner's already strong market position.

Founder Dave Thomas remains chief executive officer. The spokesman says that this ongoing role reflects a considered transition that supports both continuity and long-term resilience.

Thomas says: "This transition is about securing the future of the business for our customers, our partners and our team. Thomas has been instrumental in Haffner's growth over many years and his increased shareholding reflects both his commitment and his vision. It's a positive step that ensures the business is well-placed for the years ahead.

"Haffner has always been built on long-term thinking, strong relationships and delivering real value to fabricators. Becoming majority shareholder allows us to strengthen that approach, continue investing in machinery innovation and ensure the business is perfectly positioned for the future. With the strength of our team, this is very much about continuity as well as progression."

Haffner supplies PVC-U and aluminium fabrication machinery representing Haffner, Graf Synergy and Fom Industrie machinery. The company has a portfolio which spans cutting, machining, welding and advanced automation solutions.



Matt Thomas

Thomas says: "The move reinforces Haffner's long-term commitment to stability, growth and continued investment in people, products and customer support. Working alongside their well-established leadership team, Matt will continue to move the business forward, building on Haffner's strong market position and reputation for machinery excellence." □

www.haffnerltd.com

For the first time, it's portable

Coventry-based Jade Engineering has developed a portable mill cutter to allow the addition of astragal bars when installing windows on site.

Weighing 15kg and no larger than the size of a work site radio, the Jade astragal bar miller can be stored in the back of a van and taken on-site from job to job, giving installers an immediate and effective method of completing what can often be a time-consuming and fiddly install process.



"This is the perfect piece of kit for companies which frequently install heritage style PVC-U windows using astragal bar profiles," says Jade's Adam Jones. "Consisting of four profile related jaws and diamond plated cutters for a precise and clean cut, the machine itself was developed in response to many conversations we have had with fitters frustrated with the quality of the finish they can produce when installing or carrying out remedials on-site. The on-site astragal bar miller delivers a workable resolve and is the perfect addition to the fitting team toolbox."

The astragal bar miller has a footprint of 300mm x 240mm x 220mm and weighs 15kg; it is portable yet robust enough for demanding manufacture applications.

Jade also offers a larger astragal bar miller for high-volume finished products. □

www.jade-eng.co.uk

Metal cyberscape

Forterro has just completed its largest scale Logikal MES software installation yet at AMS (Architectural Metal Systems) 400,000sq ft production facility in Cork, as the aluminium specialist invests in digitalising its fabrication operation

Forterro's Logikal MES system, integrated with its aluminium processing software, gives fabricators complete control and traceability of their production flows so that they can optimise efficiency and minimise errors.

At AMS, the new Logikal MES software is running parallel production flows through three clearly defined fabrication production routes, with multiple machining and assembly stations all part of the same software framework.

Daniel Hodges, sales team lead at Forterro who was responsible for the installation, says this is a significant installation: "This was bigger and more complex than the previous Logikal MES installations we've carried out in the UK and Ireland and perfectly demonstrates both the capability and scalability of the software.

"AMS has a main, high volume production route for windows, doors and curtain walling and additional dedicated routes for sliding doors and bespoke doors for data centres. For the first time, our Forterro Logikal MES software is controlling and tracking each of these diverse routes separately, while maintaining consistent methods of execution throughout the fabrication processes.

"The software is automatically capturing the start and end of every operation at AMS via bar code scanning, with screens delivering clear process instructions for the operators as work progresses down the lines. Each of the assembly steps is also under FPC (factory process control), and AMS has successfully migrated its existing production QC process over to the new facility."

The new Logikal MES installation allows the production team at AMS to plan for different operations and different volumes on each line and have access to the same level of communication and visibility for all of them. It is also delivering robust traceability and documentation



Forterro Logikal MES installation at AMS

of the process to help demonstrate compliance for both FPC and ISO9001 audits.

According to Hodges it will provide benefits in terms of communication as well, with the system set up to confirm the production of customer-ready identification labels and paperwork



Training on Forterro Logikal MES at MES

at specific assembly points where product completion is confirmed, rather than just at the end of the lines. This ensures right first time product identification, and minimises the gap between build completion and customer-ready dispatch, reducing the risk of missing labels and any last-minute admin.

Damien Farrelly, fabrication manager at AMS says: "As a business committed to continual improvement, our investment in Forterro's Logikal MES is all about optimising efficiency, accelerating workflows and minimising the potential for errors. Digital feedback from every one of the stations around the factory is available in real time via the Logikal MES dashboard, which means we can see who did what, when and where and we can control sign-off at assembly and dispatch. It is giving us a new level insight into all three of our production lines, which I am sure will help us make even better informed decisions in the future." □