

Industrial Symbiosis

Improving productivity through efficient resource management

CAMDEN GROUP

Camden has been an innovator and market leader in uPVC products for over 30 years in Northern Ireland. By constantly identifying and improving its products and processes, Camden has created a comprehensive product range that perfectly complements the sustainability demands of the current climate.

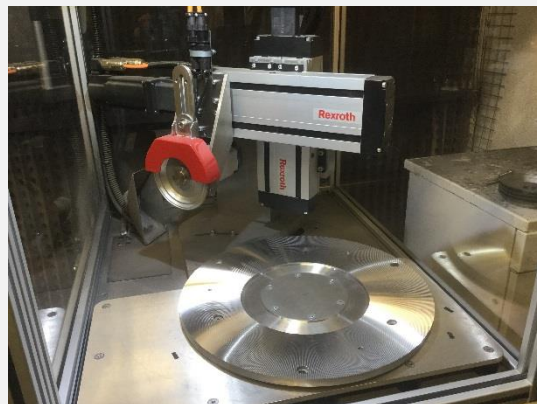
Camden is committed to the environment, and has invested heavily in onsite recycling facilities, which have helped to create a highly sought after environmentally sustainable product range on the market today

The Challenge

Since joining, Camden has used the Industrial Symbiosis Service to source suitable supplies of uPVC windows and profile off cuts that can be reused in its window profile manufacturing process. This process involves breaking down, shredding and pulverising the material into a fine powder so that it can be used in the extrusion of finished window profile.

A substantial cost in this process is the sharpening of the pulverising blades to keep them in optimum condition to produce the quality of powder required for the extrusion process. Blades were sent to a specialist company in France for sharpening.

This meant that extra blades had to be purchased to enable the logistics of keeping the process operational. As a consequence blades were not sharpened to keep them at optimal condition, transport costs were high and there was machine downtime due to shipping delays or capacity at the sharpening site.



The Solution

Mo Team is an NI based company specialising in Industrial Automation and special purpose machine building. The IS Practitioner asked Mo Team to apply its design and special purpose machine skills and production capacity to investigate the viability of making a machine for Camden to re-sharpen the blades in-house. After a lengthy design and testing period a machine was manufactured and supplied that met the re-sharpening criteria required



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The Outcome

As a result of this synergy, Camden has reduced the costs of shipping blades, and reduced the risk of machine downtime due to shipping delays etc. It has improved the quality of the recycle too as the blades are kept in optimum condition. Furthermore, having its own machine has significantly reduced costs for Camden as it is now avoiding the sharpening fees that were being charged.

This synergy also highlights the networking power of the service as both companies are looking at manufacturing other equipment that will reduce costs in consumables by carrying out the processes in house.



“Without the assistance of the IS service we would have spent considerable time and resource identifying alternative options for the sharpening of blades. Now we have a sustainable solution which meets our company objectives and has helped to substantially cut costs.”

Mark Lavery, Director, Camden Group