



Working in Partnership

TH Plastics & IPL Rotherham



An upgrade to a new material handling system has achieved phenomenal savings in the first six months.

With the help of TH Plastics, IPL's material handling systems have been transformed into an energy-efficient system, which has saved the company approximately £90,000.



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It was a pleasure to work with TH Plastics on this project and they provided all their expertise and knowledge to regular meetings and workshops in order to design the most effective system for our program.

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IPL Rotherham (also known as MGB Plastics) are the UK's leading manufacturer of wheeled bins. Manufacturing and supplying an excess of 50,000 bins per week to meet the demand of the UK market. With the title of 'Leading Manufacturers of Environmental Containers', they owe a duty of care to the products produced and supplied.

As a result of the growing demand for more sustainable products, IPL has taken this to the next level by listening to its customers. They have set emission reduction targets, increased their use of recycled materials, and innovated products to enhance their reusability and recyclability. Better yet, they have a long-term ambition to become a low-carbon company, so the first aim in mind with this project was an emphasis on reducing energy consumption.

The project was undertaken last year with our partners at IPL Rotherham who were looking to increase productivity and save on labour costs by upgrading their existing system. The system they had was a manual material handling system which required operators to manually connect one of 17 different silos to a dedicated injection moulding machine, which required a specific blend of material per job. When a machine needed a new blend of material, operators would then need to manually change the material handling configuration and swap change material sources, which was extremely time-consuming and took significant resource. As a result, their machines were depleted of material and operators were unable to physically keep up with demand, resulting in unnecessarily long downtime on the machines as well as high energy costs.

“ The two teams worked together and listened to the operators to ensure they were fully engaged in this project and helped with its implementation. This was a large and complex project, which took almost six months to complete - ensuring operations were not interrupted ”





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Working in collaboration with IPL, we developed new solutions for transforming the entire material handling system and the throughput delivery system to cope with the demand from the moulding machines, as well as to reduce energy costs across the system.

"It was a pleasure to work with TH Plastics on this project and they provided all their expertise and knowledge to attend regular meetings and workshops in order to design the most effective system for our program. Over the course of six months, these project meetings and workshops were conducted every week in order to ensure that an optimal system was developed. The TH Plastics and IPL team worked seamlessly together to deliver a system that allowed a greater flow of material to the moulding machines, reducing the manual labour element as well as the downtime on machines due to material starvation, thereby reducing our energy costs significantly."





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Throughout the entire installation program, the TH team found the working relationship to be extremely positive, having such a receptive partner really allows our engineering team to go the extra mile and complete what is a pioneering and highly efficient system. We are delighted with the outcome of the project, especially the savings it has allowed IPL to gather. Everyone at TH looks forward to the next project in the future.

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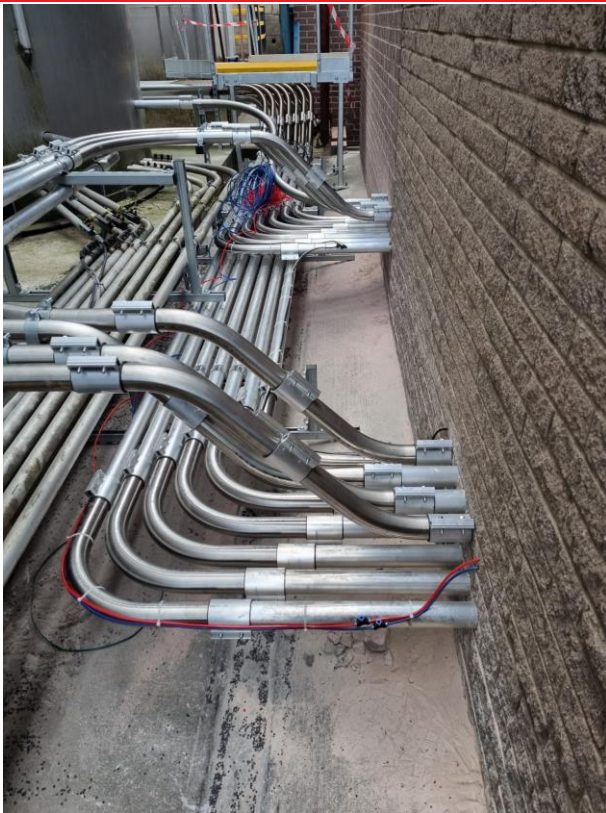
Ash Seddon
General Manager
TH Plastics

The two teams worked together and listened to the operators to ensure they were fully engaged in this project and helped with its implementation. This was a large and complex project, which took almost six months to complete - ensuring downtime was minimised operational disruption was at a bare minimum. By reducing the number of vacuum pumps on the system, the project would significantly reduce operating costs. A considerable amount of work was needed in addition to renewing material feed and vacuum pipes, adding new machines, creating new processes, training



operators on the new processes and machines, and locating a new area around their factory to accommodate this automated manifold system.

Ash Seddon, General Manager for TH Plastics said “Having the opportunity to work alongside the team at IPL Rotherham was brilliant. Everyone involved seemed to all pull in the same direction from the outset and really want the new system to be a success. Throughout the entire installation program, the TH team found the working relationship to be extremely positive, having such a receptive partner really allows our engineering team to go the extra mile and complete what is a pioneering and highly efficient system. We are delighted with the outcome of the project, especially the savings it has allowed IPL to gather. Everyone at TH looks forward to the next project in the future. IPL Rotherham will always be a valued partner”.



“ Since the implementation of this program, IPL has saved £90,000 in electricity per year due to the reduction of vacuum pumps needed and the automated process feeding the machines, which has resulted in the reduction of downtime. ”

We have conducted two formal project reviews with IPL since implementing this system to ensure that it is operating efficiently and is generating substantial benefits for the company. It is our intention to continue doing this on a six-monthly basis in order to ensure that they receive maximum benefit. Since the implementation of this program, IPL has saved £90,000 in costs per year



due to the reduction of vacuum pumps needed and the automated process feeding the machines, which has resulted in the reduction of downtime. Given the substantial increases in energy costs facing companies and homeowners, this is a significant cost saving. It is possible that the savings across the facility could increase even further should the rates continue to rise.

If you would like to find out more ways that we can help you to create a more efficient system, get in touch today!

