

DUNSTEEL INVESTS IN KALTENBACH SYSTEM

IN 1964, NOEL DUNLOP STARTED MAKING SIMPLE STEEL PRODUCTS FOR THE LOCAL FARMERS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS OF NEW SOUTH WALES. TODAY, MORE THAN 50 YEARS LATER, DUNSTEEL REMAINS A PROUDLY FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED BUSINESS. DUNSTEEL SPECIALISES IN COMPLEX PROJECTS FOR LEADING BUILDING FIRMS AND ARCHITECTS, AND IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF PREFABRICATED STAIRWAY DESIGN FOR LARGE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS. THEIR 6,000M² WORKSHOP IN MOSS VALE BOASTS STATE OF THE ART MACHINERY, INCLUDING A NEWLY INSTALLED KALTENBACH STEEL PROCESSING SYSTEM.

Dunsteel recently invested in Kaltenbach's first fully automated blasting machine and beam line in Australia. According to Dunsteel's Director, Jonathon Dunlop, they invested in the Kaltenbach steel processing system to help improve productivity and bolster efficiency.

"The outcome we were looking for was to automate our beam production, and to have reliable layout marking done by a scoring process," said Dunlop.

"We purchased a fully automated blasting, sawing, drilling and layout marking line. The truck is unloaded directly onto the in-feed of the machine and, from that point on, there is no human intervention until the fittings are welded onto the member by one of our boilermakers."

INCREASED PRODUCTION

"As a result, we have been able to increase production by around three times, when compared to our old machinery. It has also enabled us to deploy staff into higher skilled roles. Our ambition is to have the machine working two shifts per day—to load it up

and then leave it alone. Depending on the complexity of job, this outcome is achievable and does happen."

"The machine is basically unattended most of the time. It needs attention when tools reach their end of life, and also when a different tool needs to be used. However, there are 12 tool changes on the machine so 90 per cent of work is catered for automatically. Really, the only time the machine needs attention is when the bed or scrap bin become full," said Dunlop.

LAYOUT MARKING

By automating layout marking, the fabrication schedule can be improved by as much as 30 per cent, without increasing headcount or footprint. It also improves accuracy on-site, helping to eradicate rework.

"There are two sides to our business – structural steel and architectural steel like staircases. For our structural steel, about 75 per cent is marked. Our goal is to reach 100 per cent," said Dunlop.

EXTRA FEATURES

"A couple of the extra features that

Kaltenbach offered were the additional X axis on the drilling line, allowing for multiple operations to be conducted at once, and a function called AFC (Automatic Feed Control) on the saw line that enables a pivoting action on the band saw," said Dunlop.

In fact, Kaltenbach claims that theirs is the fastest band saw in the world.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TO COUNT ON

"We chose to partner with Kaltenbach because we felt that their culture was a good fit with our 'family business' style of operating. Kaltenbach felt like a small, tightly managed organisation, as opposed to some of the other players in the market that are much bigger," said Dunlop.

"It hasn't been an easy road. With the pressures of COVID-19 and the inability of technicians to travel freely, there have been times when we wondered if we'd made the right decision. But one thing that never changed was the Kaltenbach team's outstanding loyalty and devotion to their product and company.

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