



James Palmer with the SCM Tech Z5, the fifth axis minimises handling requirements in manufacturing the company's pre hung doors.

5 axis enables single run

When Brightwater Cabinet Makers & Joinery Ltd from Nelson decided they needed to upgrade their CNC operation last year, the AWISA Expo in Melbourne provided the opportunity to see potential machinery in action and discuss their requirements directly with manufacturers. They found SCM and their NZ representative, Machines R Us had just the machine for them in an SCM Tech Z5 multi axis machining centre.

Brightwater Cabinet Makers & Joinery Ltd produce kitchens, joinery, stairs and furniture across the spectrum. They have been very busy lately, struggling to keep up with orders, even more so having recently diversified into pre hung doors. So the timing was right to upgrade their machining ability.

"We largely purchased this machine for our door manufacturing needs and its ability to do all sides of the door in one pass," says James Palmer company owner. "We were currently working two other CNC's, one purchased in the 90's and the other 4 years ago, both are good machines but we needed to upgrade, something more specific for the way our business was heading. Attending AWISA in Melbourne last year gave me a good chance to look around."

"The guys on the SCM stand and their Kiwi connections at Machines R Us showed great interest in what I wanted to do. Being able to speak directly to the manufacturer and see the machines operating was very worthwhile. They put me on the right track, this machine is specifically for what we want to do, including the on board software which came as part of the package.

"I was looking at smaller machines originally but it became clear with the amount of work we wanted to put through this machine we needed something bigger and by the time you had purchased all the aggregate to spec up a smaller machine the larger ones became more economic, so we ordered the SCM Tech Z5.

"The machine landed in April and installation and commissioning with Machines R Us went very well. There is a lot to learn in matching the machine to what you want to do in terms of time spent versus work achieved, which can be difficult to do while you still need to keep production running and orders flowing. However within a couple of months and a few phone calls to Machines R Us we have it largely sorted and running as we want, although we can still see plenty of room for fine tuning.

"It is a very quiet machine and very fast. Set up times and tool changes are very quick and its extended double ended bed means we can set up the next job while it is working the other end. Working in 5 axis mode is fantastic we can put an object on and when we take it off it is finished, no re-handling, no re-positioning.

There are huge efficiencies in speed and labour when we are not handling each door 4 or 5 times like we did in the past.

"A lot of our fine tuning now is to do with developing the library to suit our product range and manufacturing methods. When that is complete we will be running even more efficiently, and will simply have to pull up a previous job, make any adaptations and it will be ready to process.

"The SCM Tech Z5 has really improved our capacity and efficiency, it is working very smoothly and we are very happy with it as it is at the moment. But the beauty of it all is we can see the benefits continuing as we become more familiar with the machine and get it running exactly to suit our operational needs.

