



panel & solid timber work well together

The joinery division of MCL Construction (formerly Mackersey Construction) was a traditional based joinery shop doing panel work and timber doors and windows using panel saws, mortice and tenoners and spindle moulders. That changed when they purchased an SCM Pratih Z2 52, a multi function flat bed machine that runs both nested panels as well as solid timber, from Machines R Us in February this year.

Joinery Division Manager Ross Morgan said the decision to change to a CNC set up and purchase the SCM was required to keep the company competitive and enable them to widen their scope of work.

“We arrived at the choice of this particular machine for several reasons and by narrowing down options through online research, reading magazine articles and speaking to other CNC manufacturers before talking with John Fleet from Machines R Us who I have known and had dealing with for 15 years.

“MCL Joinery doesn’t just specialise in one component of joinery so needs to be flexible in its ability to produce both timber joinery and flat panel work. We also didn’t have room for two machines so we needed something versatile and capable that could handle both facets of our production. Following my own research I put our scenario to John Fleet and he proposed the SCM Pratih Z2 52 as a machine that would suit our work load, budget and space.

The machine is a multi function flat bed pendulum action machine which enables flat panel work on

both ends or timber work at one and flat panel at the other, giving the ability to change immediately from solid wood to nesting without any setup.

Pop up stops are placed across the table which can double as clamps when machining solid timber, necessary when carrying out heavy machining with large diameter tools. The machine is equipped with two large capacity tool changers, a drilling head including horizontals and a dedicated horizontal spindle motor for lock boxes and hinge cut-outs along with a C axis and selection of aggregate pick up tools.

“We decided it was the machine for us,” says Ross. “Installation and commissioning was completed in under two weeks by Marco from Machines R Us with little inconvenience to our workshop. His knowledge and ongoing support has been extremely valuable and ensured we understood the machine, its operation and capabilities very quickly.”

When selecting software to partner the machine Ross took his time to ensure they knew what they wanted. “After many hours



The stops double as clamps - holding with vacuum only when cutting a large tenon across the grain in a single pass is not recommended.

of reading and watching online demonstration we went with Cabinet Vision from Joinery IT for the flat panel work and Alphacam from Cam Solutions for timber windows and doors and special fittings. The support network from these guys has been good in ensuring we get the most out of the machine.

“Our staff have embraced the change. It was important to us that they were part of it. They were involved in the selection process and could see the way the industry had moved and that we needed to stay competitive in the market. Once installed and operating they could see that their job had become less physical and

in fact the challenge of how to best manufacture items on the CNC has encouraged our staff input.

“The purchase and shift to CNC has been a big move, not only coming to terms with the new machine but also having to learn two different drawing packages at the same time. But it has been a good one, we essentially have two highly optioned machines in one, we can produce more in one day than before and produce it more efficiently - the Pratih has quickly proved its worth.”

