

Guala gains from all-electrics

Guala Closures has installed eight all-electric Sumitomo (SHI) Demag injection moulding machines at its closure production plant at Kirkintilloch in Scotland over the past three years, reporting improved output, quality and energy efficiency.

The rationale behind the decision to invest in the IntElect machines – a combination of 100 and 160 tonne models – was to “speed up production and increase the manufacturing consistency of Guala’s precision components, whilst also reducing energy consumption,” according to Guala’s manufacturing manager, Stevie Houston.



The eight IntElect machines have delivered some impressive results. “Over the last four years, output of closures has increased by 12% and our overall equipment efficiency (OEE) rating has seen a 5% increase,” says Houston.

“This has consistently made us one of the group’s top performing plants since 2009,” he says. “In addition, the technology we’ve adopted has made a real impact on our quality targets, with a 40% reduction in scrap.”

Guala’s relationship with Sumitomo Demag goes back around eight years, when it bought its first hydraulic moulding machine from the German manufacturer. It now runs seven hydraulic Systec machines and has just installed a new 120 tonne model configured for two-component moulding.

Houston says Sumitomo Demag’s willingness to adapt equipment to its precise needs was a factor in its selection. “For instance, we have been able to tailor new machines to work with some elderly moulds with special platen requirements,” he says.

I www.sumitomo-shi-demag.eu