

High five the ZX4

Steve Haines writes: Stuga has completed the installation of a Stuga ZX4 sawing and machining center in the new extension at Polyframe Norwich, based in Lenwade and part of the Customade Group. The site has recently been expanded by 50% to cope with high demand for the windows and doors produced at this facility. Capacity has reached above 5,000 windows per week and there are ambitious growth plans for the future including for more machinery to take capacity to in excess of 7,000 windows per week



Polyframe Norwich currently has over 150 full time employees at Lenwade and whilst further expansion will result in more automation and technology, further job creation is also inevitable together with security for the current workforce. The company is a major user of Rehau at this particular site but offers alternative profiles from other sites within the group.

This is the fifth Stuga ZX4 installed at Lenwade, with the first one, installed in 2005, has run flat out for nearly 13 years. The ZX4 is a high output sawing and machining center capable of producing 800 to 1,000 windows per week depending on styles and operations. All necessary saw cuts and prepping operations utilised on PVC-U windows and doors can be dealt with quickly, efficiently and accurately on the ZX4. The Stuga ZX4 can work with all UK profiles up to 6.5m long and automatically process them giving excellent optimisation including random use of offcuts which are re-optimised 'on-the-fly'.

The close proximity of Polyframe Norwich to Great Yarmouth where all Stuga machines are manufactured creates the opportunity for excellent synergies between Stuga service and Polyframe maintenance teams, so looking after five high output centers running flat out is not as demanding as it could be with regular servicing easily achieved. Stuga also has internet diagnostics and



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internet enabled cameras on-board every machine that the Customade Group owns and a number of personnel in Great Yarmouth and in the field with the knowledge and ability to use this resource.

Stuga manufactures a wide range of sawing and machining centers at our Great Yarmouth factory and the Customade Group has a current total of 14 Stuga lines spread over five sites throughout the UK, the majority of which are the popular ZX4 model. Stuga also builds the small footprint AutoFlow-2 as well as the ZX3 and ZX4 which covers the full range of requirements for most fabricators. In addition we rebuild machines traded-in and offer a great opportunity for

smaller fabricators with a limited budget to purchase a pre-used model with the same warranty as a new machine. We also offer stand-alone prepping centers and automatic saws as well as automatic ancillary saws which are popular for volume manufacture of sills and other suitable ancillaries and add-ons.

All Stuga machines come with a free service contract during the warranty period. Subsequently customers can buy a warranty and most fabricators find this comprehensive product very worthwhile. □

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