



BLACKFAST CASE STUDY

Economic justification for the installation of a Blackfast line

The company in this case is located in the UK Midlands, manufactures automatic printing machinery and is a market leader in printing technology. The printing machines assembled on this site range in size from 30 to 100 square metres.

A semi automatic Blackfast blacking line comprising 250litre tanks was installed in 2002 at a cost of £18,000 together with a vibro cleaning and de-burring machine at a cost of £20,000. The annual chemical consumption is £3,500. Chemical blacking of the machinery parts has eliminated the need for the services of third party metal finishing subcontractors and semi skilled fitters to de-bur and improve the visual appearance of components prior to assembly.

Benefits to the company from the installation of the Blackfast line:

- 1) 33% reduction in machine assembly time.
- 2) Savings of £500 - £800/week labour costs (Fitters).
- 3) Un-quantified saving from the elimination of third party metal finishing contractors.

Pay-back, cost reduction and additional profit:

- 1) The capital cost of the Blackfast line and cleaning equipment was paid back within 42 weeks.
- 2) Annual savings on labour £20,600.
- 3) Additional profit from reduced assembly time.
- 4) Savings from the elimination of third party metal finishing processes.