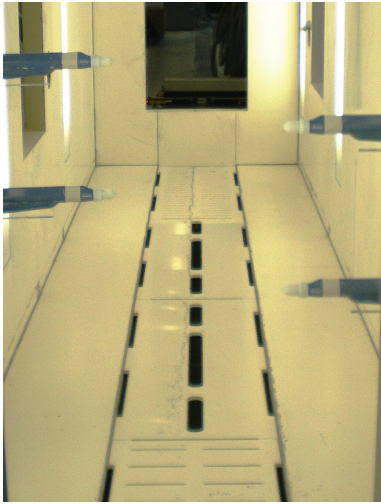


Installation Focus: Griesser AG, France



Rolling up a success story.

Griesser AG is one of Europe's leading suppliers of sun protection systems. They design and produce the most efficient range of sun protection systems which include external venetian blinds, roller shutters, awnings, patio roofs and interior blinds. Griesser was founded in 1882 and employs around 1,155 members of staff. They began as a family based company in Aadorf Switzerland and now have subsidiaries in Italy, Germany, France and Spain.



In 2009 Griesser invested in a new advanced powder paint plant from Nordson at their plant in Carros, France. The installation, a ColorMax^E fast colour change booth, and Prodigy[®] HDLV[®] dense phase application equipment was delivered and installed on schedule. The customer chose the ColorMax^E for its flexible design characteristics coupled with its proven ability to reduce production costs. The system had eight Prodigy[®] automatic guns, two manual Prodigy[®] guns and iControl application controller which offers full process control. With Prodigy[®] HDLV[®] a stable flow rate is metered to the gun producing a soft spray that provides better coating penetration and increased transfer efficiency which results in reduced powder consumption. The fast colour change booth provides optimum spraying conditions and has an automatic floor AirWash system coupled with a Nordson HDLV[®] recycle system which efficiently and continuously returns powder back to the feed centre using dense phase technology, ensuring a minimum inventory of powder at all times. Director of Griesser Didier Saune quotes "With the shorter colour change time we can now work with more customer orders due to the increased number of colours we can spray each shift".

Griesser spray aluminium extrusions and box sections with special metallic and textured powders which are difficult to spray due to their geometrical shape and the density of the powder due to large particle size. It is essential that the finished product has 'near micron perfect' coverage otherwise the assembled products such as roller shutters would not work. Additionally if too much powder is sprayed the product finish has an 'orange peel' effect due to back ionisation, a common phenomenon when too much charged powder covers the part surface. The craters or 'orange peel' created by back ionisation can go all the way through the coating layer to the metal substrate. They not only reduce the quality of the powder coating finish but may also lead to functional coating failures if the powder material does not flow well during the curing process. Nordson overcame this problem by taking advantage of Prodigy[®] technology's soft spray feature coupled with ion collectors on the Prodigy[®] guns. Each ion collector collects free ions in the electrostatic spray process which are the root cause of back ionisation and the 'orange peel' effect. The flexible design of the ColorMax^E booth also accommodated two manual spray positions before the automatic spray zone to pre-coat difficult areas of the box section products if necessary. "The quality and consistency of coverage is better, we are saving approximately fifteen percent of powder than before due to the Prodigy[®] guns and improved process control", quoted Mr Saune.



With Nordson Griesser have experienced the following benefits:

- Decreased their manual touch up operation
- Reduced colour change time by 75% from forty minutes to ten minutes
- Increased production volume by 25% in comparison to their old booth system.
- Reduced their reject rate from 8% to 3% due to improved first pass coverage of powder and process control.