

Dorman invests in a new prototyping facility

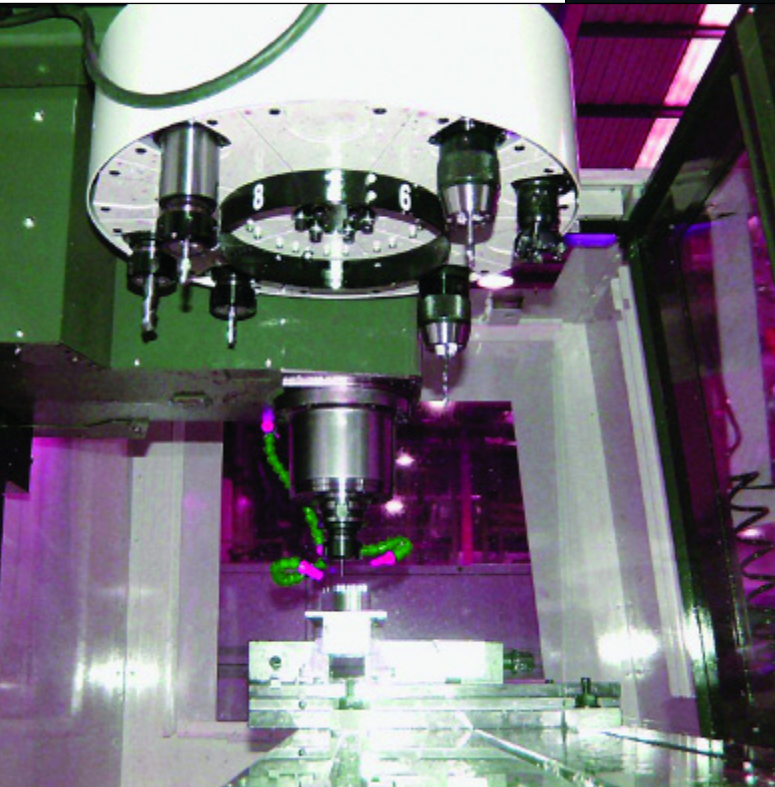
Dorman has long held a reputation throughout the industry as the company that introduced LED technology to the rail industry and that success has resulted in supplying the vast majority of LED signals across the UK rail network. It has recently reinforced this position by rapidly introducing three new products in response to Network Rail's request.

The new Proceed on Sight Authority (PoSA) signal, the LED points indicator signal and the departure direction points indicator signal have all been designed and developed in close cooperation with Network Rail to address specific requirements.

Dorman's innovative LED modules, with a proven safety record in over 13,000 locations have been a common sight on the network since 1999. They are fitted in a number of highly successful signals such as the position light signal, ground position light, drivers' crossing indicator and the level crossing miniature stop light.

New equipment

With an eye on the future, the company has



recently taken delivery of a state-of-the-art CNC machining centre which enables the in-house design team to build prototype signals even faster. This is now used alongside the extensive use of selective laser sintering rapid prototyping (or 3D printing as it is commonly known) and virtual engineering modelling, enabling Dorman's in-house design engineers to take initial customer concepts and produce working signals in very short time scales.

This investment allows customers to interact with a working prototype and suggest any design changes much earlier in the product approval process. Where previously the design and development expertise was augmented by external companies, this entire process is now undertaken in-house, meaning the company is no longer bound by external resource limitations. All drawing and finished prototype production is completed on-site in a matter of hours.

To further reduce development time and cost, a new environmental test chamber is now in place at Dorman and is being actively used for product development. This compliments the light test laboratory and allows comprehensive in-house testing and certification to be carried out. Completing the suite of new test facilities is a new high voltage test rig which will enable prototypes to be EMC-tested prior to sending for certification.

These new facilities will enable Dorman to remain at the forefront of signal technology in the UK and also continue its expansion into overseas markets where exciting opportunities are being developed in locations such as Australia, China, Europe and the United States.

Unipart Rail increases its logistics capability

Unipart Rail has recently invested in a new vehicle for its delivery fleet to improve customer deliveries. The new Motracon trailer offers an increased capacity through the 16 foot unit together with multi-decking options. This new trailer provides Unipart with a greater degree of flexibility with improved options for the stacking of pallets and overall vehicle capacity for the successful transportation of the wide range of products supplied to UK rail customers.

The bespoke trailer was designed in conjunction with Motracon to accommodate every type of materials required by Unipart's customers, ensuring that all products and kits arrive at their destination in excellent condition and ready for use.

