



## Expanding Converting Capacity

Greentree have announced they have recently placed an order for a third automatic log slitter.

The new machine is scheduled for completion in April and will be up and running by mid-May.

The new log slitter is suitable for cutting masking and protection tapes along with double sided and cloth tapes. Capable of handling rolls up 400 mm diameter by 1.6 metres wide. Driven by servo motors and controlled by a PLC the slitter is capable of cutting rolls as narrow as 1 mm.

Since the installation of the second log slitter, Greentree have seen a growth in the amount of roll converting business. This third machine will ensure customers can quickly receive orders for both standard widths of tape and custom widths.

The 3D printer has a build area of 340 mm \* 330 mm \* 200 mm high so is capable of producing large parts. Primarily the printer has been used to prototype designs prior to tool manufacture. However, a number of customers have used the 3D printed masks in their finishing processes.

Whilst there are a number of 3D printers on the market, there are very few that can print materials that resemble the rubber like properties of masks for surface finishing. Greentree looked at less expensive equipment, but chose this machine due to the accuracy of the printer and the printed material options.



This printer allows the Design Engineers to quickly produce a working piece from their CAD design. Both the designer and the customer can then review the mask and try it in the part. So far the printer has helped a number of customers visualize their final product prior to the moulding tool being cut.

In terms of lead time, the printer means a designer can draw up the design during the day, print the part overnight and be at the customer's door

the following day to review it.

The printer requires a rigid maintenance routine to keep it performing efficiently and ensure it can keep up with demand. Although the benefits it brings are worth the effort to bring 3D printing into surface finishing and protection.

Rapid fulfilment of orders is crucial in the surface finishing and protection industries.

This equipment allows Greentree to hold wide log rolls of tape and cut them down to size as customer demand dictates.

### 3D Printing enters surface finishing

Custom masks can now be printed in a rubber like material. Greentree have purchased a 3D printer and associated equipment that is capable of printing in a rubber like material.

The printer was installed at the end of 2013 and has already been used successfully in a number of surface finishing and protection projects.



**For more information on our wide range of converted products or any of our 9,000 standard products please contact Greentree on telephone: 01684 533800 or email: sales@greentree-eng.co.uk**