



Lighting industry

## Case Study Thorn Lighting Spennymoor

**Sector:** Lighting sector  
**Distributor:** Corus Colorsteels

**Products used:** High reflective polyester from Corus



### Thorn leads the way in pre-finished steel

Pre-finished steel from Corus has proven benefits in a number of key sectors of consumer goods including Lighting.

One of the most significant cases is Thorn Lighting. Over the last decade, Corus has worked closely with Thorn to develop a pre-finished steel solution which has led to nearly 70% of the manufacturing process being converted.

Pre-finished steel is a strip product with a number of paint layers and treatments applied in highly automated and carefully controlled manufacturing conditions.

As a leading company within the lighting market, Thorn combines product quality with competitive and efficient manufacturing. By converting four production lines at its Spennymoor site, significant rewards have already been demonstrated.

"With our main high volume ranges now manufactured using Corus pre-finished steel, we are seeing significant cost savings," comments Brock Hoaran, Chief Analyst at Thorn Lighting. "By converting to pre-finished steel, a lower labour cost is involved which allows us to accommodate cost pressures within the industry, particularly from China".

Pre-finished steel from Corus enabled Thorn to reduce gauges from 0.7 to 0.5, resulting in significant savings. Further benefits have been the reduction in labour requirements, paint wastage, stocks and a need for extra material during production. For example, the elimination of strippable film, which was necessary prior to finishing when using post painted material.

The move to pre-finished steel shows Thorns' dedication to leaner manufacturing, and its commitment to quality products. The manufacturing process which used to take over three hours now takes an hour. The increases in productivity and flexibility enable Thorn to react more promptly and with greater speed to customer demand. In addition, the overall quality has improved, supported by increased product consistency throughout the manufacturing process.

Paint thickness and surface finish are also guaranteed to be uniform and consistent, adding to the aesthetic appeal of Thorn's product portfolio.

"With salt spray testing, the corrosion in post painted components was a lot more progressive," comments Neil Craik Technical Manager Corus Consumer Products. "In addition, the finish with pre-finished material emerged as more consistent in thickness and in texture with greater adhesion."

With the progression to pre-finished steel, Thorn Lighting has already benefited from extra production space, consistency of appearance with the product ranges, more rapid production and heightened cleanliness in line with all health and safety directives.

Brock Hoaran stated "The development of this innovative manufacturing procedure within our company enables us to maintain high quality and competitive costs for all our products."

As leaders in pre-finished steel, Corus is able to offer ongoing service and testing to ensure that the new system continues to meet the client's requirements.

"The service and support we received from Corus during the production changeover to pre-finished steel cannot be faulted." claimed Brock Hoaran.

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