

Digital Breakthrough Case Study

Arc Fab Sussex

arcfabsussex.co.uk

Metal fabrication

Arc Fab Sussex has been growing organically since 2011, serving builders, construction companies and home-owners in the south eastern counties of England. Its products include a wide range of structural metalwork, staircases, balconies and gates. Arc Fab Sussex's craftsmen have also developed niche capabilities in public sculptural art and historic boat restoration.

Director Toby Ombler's ambition for Arc Fab Sussex is to improve competitiveness whilst continuing to be innovative in its approach and solutions, and delivering quality products on-time and on-budget. Following our outreach campaign with Coast to Capital, Toby took advantage of Digital Breakthrough to clarify his vision for business rationalisation and to enhance his plans for exploiting relevant digital technologies.

Digital Breakthrough helped Toby to prioritise improvements in use of workshop space, a "command centre" and production consoles to give employees common access to STRUMIS software for planning, design and Factory Production Control with traceability.

Digital Breakthrough Operational Outcomes include

The Digital Breakthrough workshops enabled Toby and his team to make rapid progress with introducing new workspaces and computer systems. Arc Fab Sussex has achieved EXC 2 certification of Factory Production Control of constructional steelwork to BS EN 1090. Customers now have greater assurance of production planning, traceability and transparency from the team's use of Bluebeam for design combined with STRUMIS for quoting, integrated with Xero accounting software. A CNC plasma cutting machine now allows large and thick plates to be cut efficiently. Other priority investments are in progress and expected to build capabilities, including bringing CAD/CAM work in-house. Online ordering of steels will improve efficiency and turn-around.

Digital Breakthrough Business Impacts include

Arc Fab Sussex is back in profit and receiving great feedback from customers. As domestic, building and construction markets strengthen following the coronavirus pandemic, Arc Fab Sussex is confident of a strong competitive position.

"I was dubious about participating online but actually it was very well run and managed and probably more time effective [than face-to-face]. I have been pushing to be more digitally aware since we invested in our software solution but without any real direction so the road map has help set out a clear path for the next 2-3 years".

Toby Ombler
Director, Arc Fab Sussex



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Capital**