



**LVS Small Plastic Parts add to their portfolio of decorative finish options with in-house pad printing facility.**



Over the last decade, LVS Small Plastic Parts have developed a speciality in the supply of plastic components with a variety of decorative finishes. For example, a long standing relationship with a leading plastic plating company, has resulted in the production of around 2 million PC and PC-ABS components per year, many of which, once plated, are used for high end automotive interior trim.

Another speciality is the painting of moulded parts. At a basic level the finish can be purely decorative, but for example, whereas a plated component is cold to the touch, a painted plastic part is not. A painted surface can also be functional, e.g. by the inclusion of antimicrobial agents, or even tactile, as is the case with 'soft-touch' paint finishes.

Until recently, LVS offered the option for decorative printing through working with a specialist subcontractor, but the imminent delivery of a new PE-6C single colour pad printer also now means that simpler printing jobs can now take place 'in-house'. Initially the new unit will be used for the decoration of a new product being launched by a leading

domestic appliance supplier, but additional capacity will be available for new projects.

The printer will be connected to the companies Intouch production planning and monitoring system, meaning that components can be easily tracked during the various stages of the manufacturing process.

The production of plastic components which undergo a secondary decorative process require particularly stringent quality and housekeeping regimes. Managing Director, Simon Anderson commented, "Most people are aware that applying a decorative finish to a plastic component can highlight even the smallest surface defect. Once the surface finish is applied, it is then impractical to

recycle the component, so we have to be particularly vigilant when it comes to sink marks and other imperfections”.

“Surface contamination can also create major problems, so as well as implementing 5S techniques, we use specialised packaging where necessary and minimise the time we store product prior to shipping to an outside specialist. In the case of chrome plating, we usually ship parts to our partner company on a daily basis.”

*Image of PE-6C (approval granted by supplier)*

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