



# investing in the future

Traditionally known for its blockboards, SWL Tischlerplatten Betriebs GmbH (SWL) has recently extended its product range to offer furniture manufacturers a wide range of panel solutions.

Established in 1976 as a core board production facility in Schmerdecke, Germany, the company soon expanded taking over a plywood factory in Langenberg in 1983. Now blockboards and other products are produced at the two sites.

"Many years ago national and international competition and increasing demands from our customers prompted us to develop highly specialised boards," says Ralph Schonlau, joint managing director alongside his brother Reiner, at SWL. "We produce finish face-veneered sanded blockboards suitable for immediate coating."

This is just a small part of SWL's offering. The company has been active in

developing new products to adapt to changing market conditions and customers nowadays can choose from veneers made from umpteen species of wood.

Product development does not stop there. SWL has produced a range of boards for high end interior applications such as extra-light boards made from finger-jointed albasia, panels with chipboard or MDF faces and sandwich boards with polyurethane (PUR) or polystyrene (PS) cores. face-veneered chipboard, MDF and multiplex boards complete this range of high quality, wood based panels.

Recently the company has introduced Doorline, a new front door blanks range to add to its portfolio. Although the door blanks have been on offer for just a few months, SWL has already seen high demand for this product.

It is all very well offering a variety of panels and boards, but the quality of these

*Investment in product and plant has enabled SWL to offer high quality panels and boards*

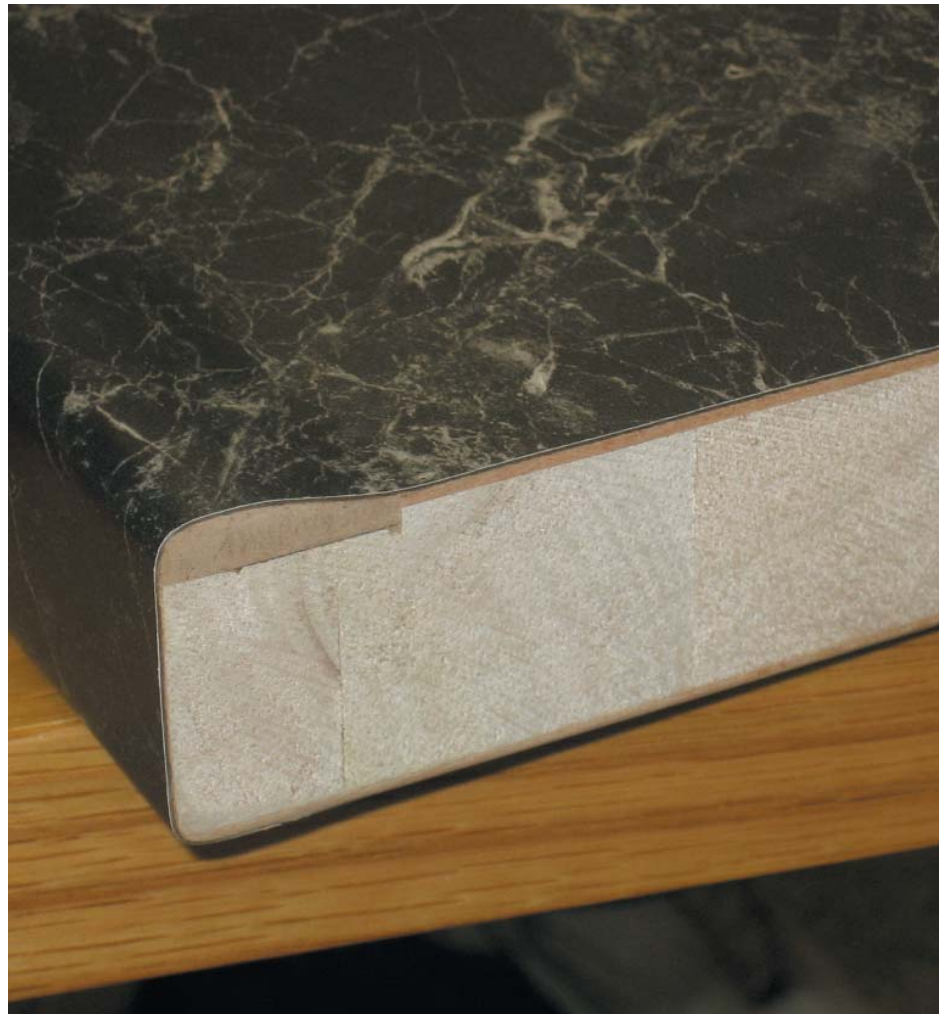


*Above: SWL can offer an extensive range of substrates and veneers.*

**Right:** SWL Light is a lightweight board which is ideal for kitchen furniture.

**Bottom of page & below:** A new, fully automatic pressing line has enabled SWL to increase its productivity and reduce set up times.

**Middle:** Quality is key at SWL from its high quality veneers to its superior manufacturing processes.



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products cannot be overlooked. SWL has focussed on this aspect in its product development over the last few years. Investment in modernising its production facilities which has included a fully automated press line has been key to ensuring high quality in its wood products. The new production line is capable of producing 10,000 metres of blockboard, with up to 20 diverse orders in one shift. "We take a great deal of pride in this press line for blockboards. It is certainly one of the most up-to-date in the whole world," says Rainer.

The company has invested in a bonding and layup station. Due to the wide range of the portal crane which is equipped with suction devices to manipulate the fences, the new line can handle multi-ply (up to 11 ply) boards in one run. SWL has also developed its own veneer scarfing line that enables veneers used for strip cores to be scarfed continuously. This means that a well-

closed and high homogeneous strip core with high density and stability can be produced. The company has made additional investment at its Schmerlecke site in the extension of the four board bonding lines so that these can now produce cores with lengths up to 7,800mm.

However the new machinery is not solely responsible for the company's quality of supply. According to Reiner, the Langenberg site itself is a major factor: "We are right in the centre of the furniture industry processing wooden boards. This enables us to guarantee very short supply times and we can also respond to short term changes made by our customers. Short distances resulting in very personal contacts also benefit the development of new products, which are often developed in very close contact with the customer."

For more information on the range of panels and boards from SWL call 0049 5248 5090.