



FRAMECAD™

SOUTH AFRICA

Silver Falcon trusts FRAMECAD to churn out the roof trusses

For South African construction components company Silver Falcon Trading 487 (Pty) Ltd, moving from timber to steel roof trusses was a way to lift productivity, reduce waste and trim transport costs.

BACKGROUND

Based in Gauteng province, Silver Falcon Trading is a subsidiary of the Sea Kay Holdings Group, a mass housing construction company providing affordable housing to Government, banks, mines, property development companies and private clients.

The management team at Silver Falcon first heard about FRAMECAD when Metal Rollforming South Africa, FRAMECAD's South African distributor, made contact after reading a newspaper story about the company. The article mentioned that Silver Falcon had gained contracts to build thousands of roof trusses for major housing developments.

"Dirk Moolman from Metal Rollforming South Africa set up a meeting with Silver Falcon, took along a steel frame sample square and showed them what the FRAMECAD system could achieve. After a further meeting with Mark Taylor, FRAMECAD's CEO, we got the order", said Matthew Day, FRAMECAD Regional Sales Manager.

Silver Falcon recognised that making the change from timber to light gauge steel would help them to achieve more in less time. Vernon van der Westhuizen, General Manager of Silver Falcon, explains. "We changed to steel due to the quantities we have to put out. Using steel is a better, faster option and the quality is consistent."

SOLUTION

Initially, Silver Falcon dipped a toe in the water with one of FRAMECAD's low volume turnkey solutions for residential construction. Two months later, they added a second higher volume manufacturing plant upgrading the operation to a mid volume turnkey factory solution to expand the types of steel frame buildings Silver Falcon can offer. In each case, implementation and training was complete within three weeks.

FRAMECAD manufacturing plants are able to automatically produce roof trusses, after receiving instructions from the FRAMECAD Detailer and FRAMECAD ProDesign Engineering software. Every output is accurately formed, cut, punched, dimpled and individually labelled, ready for screw-together assembly.

"We are using the machines confidently", says Vernon van der Westhuizen. "We have delivered approximately 3000 roofs already, and we've totally stopped using timber for roof trusses."

Since the initial implementation phase, Silver Falcon have added two more FrameMasters to their factory.



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USER EXPERIENCE

Silver Falcon is currently using the FRAMECAD system to build roof trusses for the huge Soshanguve housing development near Pretoria, and others like it. The Steel FrameMasters are running all day every day. Between mid-May and October 2008, the company delivered trusses for 1600 roofs to Soshanguve and 1000 roofs to Tshepiso a development near Vereeniging.

“The transition from timber to steel was no problem on gable roofs” says Vernon van der Westhuizen. While resistance from Silver Falcon’s employees was expected, they are fully fluent with the new technology.

“The system is cost-effective, so budgets go further. Our clients can create more housing for the same money. And you do it in a much faster time, so you cut labour costs. You also save on delivery costs, because you can flat-pack a lot more steel trusses onto a truck. You’re scoring all the way.”

PRODUCT SUMMARY

- FRAMECAD ProDesign is recognized as a world-leading design detailing and engineering software package for walls, trusses and sub-floors. It incorporates full structural analysis and engineers for all environmental conditions. Designs are optimised for the best use of material while remaining structurally sound.
- FRAMECAD™ Detailer is a versatile detailing package with world-leading design flexibility that makes it easy to adhere to local building codes, standards and practices. The detailed framing plans produced by this application are transferred directly to the Steel FrameMaster manufacturing equipment.
- FRAMECAD turnkey factory deployments provide fully integrated, cold-formed steel manufacturing operations for customers who need to quickly increase production or move away from traditional building systems. Silver Falcon’s transition to a medium volume residential turnkey solution is a combination of various FrameMaster manufacturing plants, integrated software, supply chain and services delivering a sure path to consistent, high-quality productivity that will continue to grow with their production requirements.



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