

Nice Link Home Furnishings



CUSTOMER STORY

LECTRA



The Challenge

Nice Link Home Furnishings is an original design manufacturer (ODM) serving global markets with an emphasis on the US where they get **90% of their orders**. Designing and manufacturing furniture for home furnishing giants such as La-Z-Boy requires Nice Link to deliver consistent quality and achieve **high operational-performance-levels**. The company exports 400 containers—or 16,000 sofas—per month. Nice Link faces the challenges of increased labor shortages, rising material costs, and the need to reduce risks when entering new markets overseas.

Lectra's response

Lectra suggested the all-in-one cutting solution, Versalis, to enable Nice Link to digitize and automate its production flow. From work order preparation to the unloading of cut parts, Versalis' automated nesting software helps Nice Link **achieve grouped and mixed nesting as well as material waste reduction and increased leather yield**. This makes expanding into new markets easier by standardizing production methods to **boost product quality and overall production efficiency**.

NICE LINK HOME
FURNISHINGS PARTNERS
WITH LECTRA TO GROW
AND ENHANCE ITS
COMPETITIVENESS

Results

Nice Link was able to **improve productivity** by manufacturing more furniture articles with fewer workers, reducing its dependence on manual oversight and labour during peak and tough periods. The company was therefore able to **overcome rising raw material costs by gaining a 3% increase in material savings** which protected profit margins. The company also capitalized on its long-standing knowledge of global furniture trends by **boosting its production speed to deliver new products to new markets**, fast before its competitors.

01

ACCELERATING PRODUCTION AND REDUCING LABOR DEPENDENCY

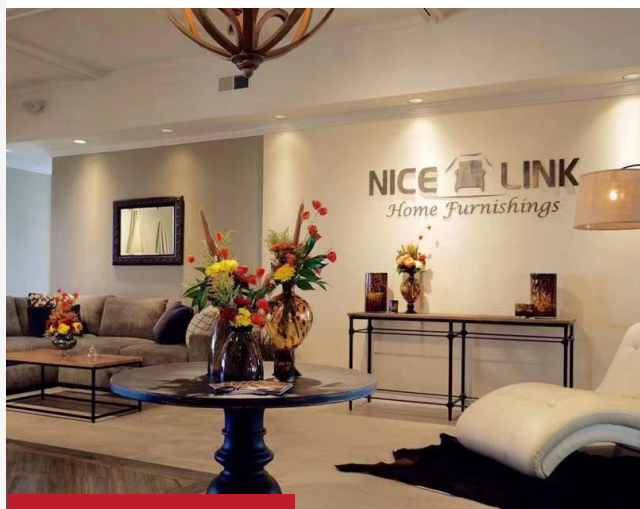
One of Nice Link's goals is to save time in the manufacturing process with effective workflow visualization and automation technology to **deliver high-quality products to the market faster.**

Due to the aging of the local employee pool and the scarcity of industrial labor in the younger generation, the company turns to investments in reliable and professional automation solutions. These could reduce the company's dependency on manual labor and simultaneously boost its production speed.

Digital cutting solutions enable Nice Link to **respond to changes in demand with greater flexibility and agility.** The company was struggling to meet demands during peak seasons because additional manual cutters were not always available. Now, Versalis enables Nice Link to keep up with a much higher demand with fewer workers.

Versalis' digital production management capabilities help improve Nice Link's overall production efficiency, thereby increasing the company's competitiveness and strengthening its ability to develop new products as part of the company's expansion strategy into new overseas markets.

In an unstable market with fluctuations in demand as well as uncertainties, disruptions and higher shipping costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the company deems diversifying its export orders an urgency.



02

MAXIMIZING MATERIAL EFFICIENCY AND SAVINGS

Nice Link has achieved a 3% increase in material savings by using **digital visualization technology** to nest, cut pieces in groups, make marks as close as possible to the defects, cut with greater accuracy and achieve a smaller buffer between cut parts. This contributes to reducing material waste and increases leather yield which protects profit margins against rising material costs.

"We are very pleased with the productivity and fabric savings of the Lectra Versalis leather cutting solution. I believe that in the future, Lectra will definitely be a good partner on Nice Link's corporate development path."

Cao Yafang,
Vice President of Nice Link



03

BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP FOR INNOVATION AND GROWTH

Impressed by Lectra's years of experience in the furniture industry, Nice Link aims for a closer and longer-term relationship with Lectra.

Nice Link's introduction to Versalis started with a test project where both companies worked together to formulate the KPIs that would validate the performance of the cutting solution. During the testing process, **Lectra helped Nice Link to digitize markers and optimize its pre-production and production processes.** This collaborative and customer-centered relationship enabled Nice Link to understand quickly how to use Versalis and discover ways to ensure they achieve their performance targets.

ABOUT **VERSALIS**

Staying apace of emerging furniture trends is critical to remain competitive on today's continually changing market. That's why finding fast, efficient, cost-effective ways to satisfy the latest consumer expectations is essential. From hide digitization to offloading, Lectra's Versalis all-in-one cutting line brings value, speed and precision to your leather cutting room. A full suite of furniture development, industrialization and pre-production solutions allows you to boost productivity to take new furniture designs to market quickly and profitably.

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