



Manufacturing the future of road safety

Astra Vehicle Technologies (AVT) is a UK-based specialist engineering company offering a comprehensive 'one-stop shop' approach to commercial vehicle conversions. Operating from a 72,000 sq ft facility in Deeside, Flintshire, AVT provides a wide range of chassis modification services, including electric and bio-CNG conversions, dual steering systems, and advanced safety features like the ClearView blind spot window. With a focus on sustainability and innovation, AVT supports fleet operators in transitioning to low-emission vehicles, ensuring compliance with modern environmental standards.



Hand lay production



Lead times



Design to delivery

FROM BLIND SPOTS TO BRIGHT IDEAS

With the business growing exponentially and their previous supplier unable to cope with both quality and quantity, Astra went online to search for a new supplier. Having been advised that GRP was not the way forward initially, and that they needed to locate a Resin Transfer Moulding company, the search resulted in a conversation with MPM. The product is a fascinating result of collaboration in the market, regarding the need to improve vehicle safety with a particular focus on cyclists and large vehicles. Research initiated by Boris Johnson, former Mayor of London and Prime minister, was completed by Loughborough University to identify and map the "Blind Spots" created by the current design of large HGVs. Despite mirrors which provide curbside and bumper views, Loughborough identified significant issues to the front and side views available to drivers from all larger HGVs. Whilst camera systems can be offered to provide the driver with full 360° views, concerns exist around driver overload. Astra therefore designed their "ClearView" product – a low-level passenger door window capable of being retro fitted to any HGV.

CHALLENGING CONVENTION, IMPROVING THE PRODUCT

Once Ben (MPM's Managing Director) had challenged the need for the RTM method on this project and agreed that GRP hand-lay production was a way forward, Alan Godden (Retired MPM Technical Director) was fundamental to the development of the product for Astra Vehicles and for the vast improvement in the end product.

"This ongoing project is a fascinating result of collaboration in the market, regarding the need to improve vehicle safety with a particular focus on cyclists and large vehicles. MPM are exceptionally good at what they do, and have given us professional advice and peace of mind when it comes to quality and quantity"



"Our ability to offer our clients this product has more than doubled since we have found MPM as our supplier. We are able to confidently offer much improved lead times, whilst also actually improving the quality. The future is also bright as we get to know more about MPM's capability, we are improving other products too. An amazing team, efficient, professional and exceptionally good at what they do"

John Chadderton
Managing Director, Astra Vehicle

THE CHALLENGE

Lack of capacity and quality

THE VALUE WE ADDED

Challenging the process to improve quality

THE BENEFIT TO THE CUSTOMER

Meeting capacity demand and lead/quality expectations