

ALTO: PLASTICS CAREERS PACKED!



ALTO is one of New Zealand's leading plastics packing companies, with 12 plants across New Zealand and Australia and more than 600 team members.

ALTO specialises in extrusion and thermoforming, blow moulding and injection moulding. The business is part of Pact Group, a leading supplier of specialty packaging solutions with more than 3000 staff throughout Australasia. **Pact Group specialises in** ● the manufacture and supply of rigid plastic and metal packaging ● materials handling solutions ● co-manufacturing services and recycling sustainability services.

For more information visit www.alto.co.nz



FutureForce® sat down with young Thermoforming Die Setter Siyuan You (aka Boris) and Lance Wyatt, Operations Manager at ALTO's Hamilton plant, to find out more about a career in the plastics manufacturing industry.

How did you first get into work?

I was originally studying for my diploma at Wintec and came to ALTO for my placement and work experience. I was then offered an apprenticeship here doing shift work while I was studying at university. I've been here for about four years.

Are you looking at doing any further study?

I've just completed my Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering at University of Waikato and I'm starting my Masters. At the same time, I'm working on my Plastics Trade Units.

So where do you see yourself going in the future?

Once I've gained my Masters, I want to use my degree to become a Mechanical Engineer.

Boris' top advice for someone deciding on their career

Send out your CV, talk to people, be confident and don't panic!



Lance Wyatt

Operations Manager

"We're an engineering company – that happens to produce plastic products."

Different engineering companies might make sheet metal products or gears or robots... our engineering output happens to be plastics. For a manufacturing outfit like this to operate, we need engineers. It's an engineering trade and that's what a lot of people don't realise."

What type of person suits this career?

Someone who: ● is attentive ● has good problem solving abilities ● is willing to learn ● has good time management skills ● is a critical thinker.



Siyuan You (aka Boris)

Thermoforming Die Setter

What are some of the highlights of your job?

Every day is different. You don't know what's going to happen that day - or what's going to go wrong! You're always learning.



Boris' typical day on the job

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| | Meet with the team to find out what machines are currently running and what to expect during the day | | Use a logbook to record any issues or problems |
| | Check each machine is running properly | | Fix issues and solve problems |
| | Process checks | | Change tools, dies and inserts to make a different product |
| | Quality Assurance – product quality inspections | | Check the schedules and plan what the machines need to be doing |